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D.C. has work to do before Expos take field

Back page

D.C. Mayor Anthony Williams



Preston says shorter rotations won't be soon

Page 8



Yusuf Islam

Cat to Yusuf: One singer's spiritual path

Page 18

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2004

Free in Deployed Areas

'6,000-mile screwdriver' fine-tuned Iraq war

Dempsey: Field commanders peppered with politicians' questions



■ Sanchez: Iraq is fighting war of the future
■ Weapons displays from expo

Pages 6, 8

Lt. Col. Kevin Stoddard, left, project manager for Crew Served Weapons, briefs Army military policemen on the latest developments of weapons being fielded for the individual soldier on Tuesday at the USAREUR Land Combat Expo in Heidelberg, Germany.

RAYMOND T. CONWAY/Stars and Stripes

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

World

Kyoto Protocol: The Russian Cabinet on Thursday approved the Kyoto Protocol in a crucial step that could bring the long-delayed climate change treaty into effect within months. But many Russian officials remain opposed to the treaty and Prime Minister Mikhail Fradkov, on a trip to the Netherlands, said he expected "difficult debate" when parliament meets — possibly before the end of the year — to decide on final approval. Without Russia's support, the pact — which has been rejected by the United States and China — cannot come into effect. It needs the support of 55 nations accounting for at least 55 percent of global emissions in 1990.

Nigeria oil holding: A tentative truce between militia fighters and government troops in Nigeria's oil-rich south appeared to be holding on Thursday, with the two sides expected to have a second round of talks in the capital, a militia leader said. Moujahid Dokubo-Asari who heads the Niger Delta People's Volunteer Force, said he would meet with President Olusegun Obasanjo in Abuja to press his demands for increased autonomy and control over oil resources by impoverished inhabitants of the Niger Delta. The two sides agreed Wednesday to temporarily halt the violence.

Russian company's problems: Russia's Natural Resources Ministry on Thursday postponed a discussion on revoking subsoil licenses belonging to the embattled Yukos oil giant's core subsidiary, while officials confirmed a suspension in the company's rail deliveries to China. Pulling the licenses of Yuganskneftegaz could slash the value of the unit, which is being evaluated for sale against Yukos' \$7.5 billion. The Tax Ministry had earlier filed a complaint with the Natural Resources Ministry saying that Yuganskneftegaz — which pumps 60 percent of Yukos' oil — had failed to make tax payments.

Ukrainian's possible poisoning: A leading Ukrainian opposition contender in next month's presidential vote returned to an Austrian hospital Thursday for further treatment following what his campaign claimed was a poisoning by political opponents. Viktor Yushchenko checked into Vienna's elite Rudolfinerhaus hospital because of continuing concerns about his health, said his spokeswoman, Irina Heraschchenko. Yushchenko was in "stable condition" early Thursday, she told The Associated Press.

Church sexual abuse: An influential Roman Catholic lay organization expressed relief Thursday at the resignation of a bishop who oversaw a seminary where authorities have condemned priest child pornography, calling it an "important first step" in rebuilding trust in Austria's scandalized church. We Are the Church, which claims to have 500,000 members and has condemned pedophilia and other scandals that have rocked the country's religious establishment in the past decade, had pressed for Bishop Kurt Krenn to step down or be fired.

In an interview for Thursday's edition of the newspaper Der Standard, Krenn announced

Krenn



War crimes tribunal: Serbia-Montenegro's Foreign Minister Vuk Draskovic, left, shakes hands with U.S. Undersecretary of State Marc Grossman, center, as U.S. ambassador-at-large for war crimes Pierre-Richard Prosper looks on in Belgrade, Thursday. Prosper and Grossman met officials in Belgrade to warn authorities that time is running out for the handover of suspects to the U.N. war crimes tribunal. They urged Serbia-Montenegro's leaders to arrest and extradite war crimes suspects to the U.N. tribunal, saying the country faces further international isolation if the demands are not met.

he was resigning immediately as bishop of St. Poelten, the diocese 50 miles west of Vienna where the seminary is located.

Kosovo elections: U.S. Undersecretary of State Marc Grossman was to visit Kosovo on Thursday to push for improved security and minority rights ahead of elections in the ethnically tense province.

General elections in the province are scheduled for Oct. 23, and the vote is considered a major test for international officials trying to reconcile Kosovo's bitterly divided communities and establish a multiethnic society. But Kosovo's Serb minority has threatened to boycott the polls, citing a lack of security.

Before departing for Kosovo, Grossman said in Belgrade, Serbia's capital, that Serbian leaders should encourage the province's Serbs to vote.

States

Fia. right-to-die case: The lead attorney for the parents of a woman at the center of a right-to-die dispute has withdrawn from the case, just days before the parents were expected to seek a new trial.

A judge signed an order Tuesday allowing Pet Anderson to quit after more than three years representing Bob and Mary Schindler, Terri Schiavo's parents. Anderson is being replaced by David Gibbs, who has also worked on the case.

"I am reclaiming my life," Anderson said Wednesday. "It's just time to leave. I've done my part showing that rock up the hill. Maybe I'll be able to finally sleep through the night without waking up at 3 a.m. remembering some detail."

Philadelphia corruption case: A federal grand jury investigating alleged city corruption indicted seven people Wednesday, including an imam with connections to leading politicians and an aide to the mayor's chief of staff.

Prosecutors allege Shamsud-din Ali, a leader of an influential Philadelphia mosque, used his political friendships to extort money from city vendors and paid a kickback to obtain a city contract for which he did no work. Others were charged for their alleged involvement in the schemes, which prosecutors say amounted to a racketeering enterprise.

Gambino crime family: Eighteen people, including the alleged No. 2 man in the Gambino crime family, were indicted Wednesday following an investigation into organized crime in Connecticut, Rhode Island and suburban New York.

Anthony "The Genius" Megale, a Stamford man believed to be the highest-ranking Mafia member in Connecticut, was arraigned on a 46-count federal indictment charging him with racketeering, extortion and illegal gambling.

Fifteen of the 18 people were arrested Wednesday. Investigators were searching for the others, including Ignazio Aloia, an alleged Mafia captain, and Vincent Fiore, an alleged Gambino soldier from Goshen, N.Y., both charged with attempted extortion.

Robert Blake case: Actor Robert Blake's lawyer claims newly discovered evidence points to a conspiracy among friends of Christian Brando to murder Blake's wife, who taunted Brando with a picture of the baby he thought was his but turned out to be Blake's.

Attorney M. Gerald Schwartzbach filed a voluminous motion Wednesday seeking to present evidence at Blake's upcoming murder trial showing that other people, including one of the prosecution's star witnesses, conspired to kill Benny Lee Bakley.

The motion outlines a complex series of relationships among Brando, the son of the late actor Marlon Brando, two former stuntmen and two transients. One of the stuntmen, Jerry Lee Petty, and one of the homeless men later committed suicide, the motion said.

Stories and photos from wire services

Correction

A photograph of Lt. Gen. William Wallace in Thursday's editions had an incorrect credit. The photo was taken by Stars and Stripes reporter Jon R. Anderson.

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Ragad blasts kill 35 children

BY ALEXANDRA ZAVIS

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — A series of bombings killed 35 children and seven adults Thursday as U.S. troops handed out candy at a government ceremony to inaugurate a new sewage treatment plant.

Hours earlier, a suicide blast killed a U.S. soldier and two Iraqis on the capital's outskirts.

The bombings in Baghdad's al-Amel neighborhood caused the largest death toll of children in any insurgent attack since the conflict in Iraq began 17 months ago.

"The Americans called us, they told us, 'Come here, come here,' asking us if we wanted sweets. We went beside them, then a car exploded," said 12-year-old Abdel Rahman Dawoud, lying naked in a hospital bed with shrapnel embedded all over his body.

Two bombs went off in quick succession at the ceremony about 1 p.m., then were followed by a third explosion a short distance away, said Interior Ministry spokesman Col. Adnan Abdul-Rahman. He said there were two suicide car bombs and one roadside bomb; the Americans said all three were car bombs.

The explosions killed 42 people and wounded 141, including 10 U.S. soldiers. The wounded included 72 children younger than 14, said Dr. Mohammed Salaheddin.

The day of violence across Iraq, including insurgent attacks and U.S. airstrikes in Fallujah, left a total of 46 people dead and 208 wounded.

In the northern city of Tal Afar, a car bomb targeting the police chief killed at least four people and wounded 16, Iraqi and U.S. officials said. The chief, whose name was only given as Col. Ismail, escaped the assassination attempt, police said.

Also Thursday, the Arab news network Al-Jazeera showed video of 10 new hostages seized in Iraq by militants. Al-Jazeera said the 10 — six Iraqis, two Lebanese and two Indonesian women — were taken by The Islamic Army in Iraq, a group that has claimed responsibility for seizing two French journalists.

A Lebanese official later said kidnappers had released one Lebanese captive, although it was not clear if he was among the 10.



A boy picks up the damaged bicycle of his dead brother Thursday after two car bombs and a roadside bomb went off in succession in the al-Amel neighborhood of Baghdad. At least 42 were killed, most of them children.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Wednesday, 1,053 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to the Defense Department. Of those, 800 died as a result of hostile action and 253 died of nonhostile causes. The figures include three military civilians.

The British military has reported 67 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, six; Ukraine, eight; Slovakia, three; Thailand, two; the Netherlands, two; and Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each. Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 915 U.S. military members have died — 691 as a result of hostile action and 224 of nonhostile causes, according to the military's numbers as of Wednesday.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ None reported.

The latest identifications reported by the Department of Defense: ■ Army Spc. Gregory A. Cox, 21, Carmichael, Pa.; died Monday when his military vehicle rolled over in Balad, Iraq, assigned to 1st Battalion, 77th Armor Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, Schweinfurt, Germany.

■ Marine Pfc. Kenneth L. Sickels, 20, Apple Valley, Calif.; died Monday in a nonhostile incident in Iraq's Anbar province, assigned to 1st Battalion, 77th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twenty-nine Palms, Calif.

In the al-Amel bombings, grief-stricken parents walked over the bodies of their children at the Yarmouk Hospital morgue. One woman tore at her hair before pulling back the sheet covering her dead brother and kissing him.

One man carried his younger brother, with both legs bandaged to the hospital, where some chil-

dren were put two to a bed because of the many wounded. Outside, women sat on the ground and wept as they awaited news about their children.

The hospital received 42 bodies — including those of 35 children — and 131 wounded, said Iyhan Nasser, head of the facility's statistics department.

At the site of the blasts, body

parts were strewn in the streets amid pools of blood. A U.S. helicopter evacuated some of the wounded while other aircraft circled overhead and soldiers sealed off the area.

Lt. Col. Jim Hutton, spokesman for the U.S. 1st Cavalry Division, said 10 American soldiers were among the wounded.

American troops were taking part in the ceremony to inaugurate the sewage plant, said Maj. Phil Smith, another division spokesman, calling the attacks "despicable." Officials earlier had said a U.S. convoy was passing through the area.

Smith said the first two explosions targeted the ceremony while the third was aimed at a nearby Iraqi National Guard checkpoint.

The children were at the ceremony because the school year in Iraq has not yet begun.

"This attack was carried out by evil people who do not want the Iraqis to celebrate and don't want [reconstruction] projects in Iraq," said Iraqi National Guard Lt. Ahmad Sadi.

Hours earlier, a suicide car bomber struck in the Abu Ghraib area outside of Baghdad, killing one American soldier and at least two Iraqis, and wounding 60, Iraqi and U.S. officials said.

Samer M. Yacoub and Sinan Salaheddin of The Associated Press contributed to this report.

U.S.: Snag delaying release of Saudi

BY GEORGE GEDDA

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The planned release of a U.S. citizen captured in Afghanistan as a suspected enemy combatant has been delayed, a State Department official said Thursday, because of what the U.S. official described as a snag in negotiations with the Saudi government.

The U.S. official, saying he could discuss the complex, unresolved case only on grounds of anonymity, said the two sides were working to clear up what he termed the minor snag. The official said the two sides also are working on logistical details for the transfer.

The case involves

Yasser Esam

Hamdi, who

had been

scheduled to

be released

on Tuesday

and sent to

Saudi Arabia.

Hamdi, a

U.S. citizen,

grew up in

Saudi Arabia,

but has remained in detention

in a U.S. Navy brig in South

Carolina since shortly after his

capture in Afghanistan. He also

had been held in Norfolk, Va.

Hamdi's case led to a Supreme

Court decision limiting President

Bush's powers to indefinitely

hold — without trial or charges —

so-called wartime captives.

As part of an agreement

with federal officials made public

on Monday, Hamdi would not be

charged with any crime.

The Saudi government, however,

has called the deal "unacceptable,"

and said that Hamdi should be

set free without conditions because

he never broke a law.

According to the agreement,

the United States would transport

Hamdi in civilian clothes to Saudi

Arabia no later than Thursday.

Also, Hamdi would not be al-

lowed to sue Saudi Arabia for five

years and would not be able to

return to the United States for

10 years.

He also must renounce his U.S.

citizenship and not participate in

any terrorist activity, the agree-

ment stated. A senior Justice De-

partment official said the State

Department was handling the

negotiations with the Saudis over

his return.

In a CNN interview, Saudi Em-

bassy spokesman Nail al-Jubeir

said the Saudi government had

not been a party to the deal, and

thus could not enforce its provisions.

"How can we enforce that he

can't leave for five years?" he

asked. "If he has not committed a

crime ... why are the conditions

in place?"

Donna Abu-Nasr of The Associated

Press contributed to this report from

Beirut, Lebanon.

U.S., Iraq release about 180 more detainees

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — About 180 more detainees were released Thursday from U.S. and Iraqi government custody under a process set up in wake of the prisoner abuse scandal at Abu Ghraib, the U.S. official said.

None of the freed were so-called "high-value detainees" which are processed separately from from 1,700 "security detain-

ees" at detention centers at Abu Ghraib and Camp Bucca in southern Iraq, said Lt. Col. Barry Johnson.

An investigation into abuses at Abu Ghraib erupted into scandal in April after media organizations began transmitting pictures of naked, terrified Iraqi prisoners being abused and humiliated by grinning American guards.

A review and release board

was set up by the coalition and the ministries of justice, human rights and interior of the interim Iraqi government, the release said.

Thursday's was the third release conducted since the board convened Aug. 21.

Johnson, an officer with Iraq Detention Operations, said two Iraqi women being held were not among those freed Thursday

since they are classified as high value detainees.

A militant group claiming responsibility for the abduction of British engineer Kenneth Bigley initially demanded the release of female Iraqi prisoners at American-controlled prisons — a move U.S. officials ruled out.

The United States said at the time that it was holding only two female prisoners.

MIDEAST NOTEBOOK

Lisa Burgess

Inspiration comes in many forms

Troops in Iraq get by with help from Banks and a bear

Little George may look out of place in Baghdad, but it's where he belongs — for the time being.

The wooden polar bear (sportily donning sunglasses against Iraq's bright days) arrived with the 10th Mountain Division unit, the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, and sits next to the office of the battalion commander, Lt. Col. John Spiszer.

But the bear isn't just cute or a handy place to hang sunglasses. There is history there, Spiszer explained.

Between 1918 and 1920, the regiment — then in the Philippines — was sent to defend the Trans-Siberian Highway from Russian revolutionaries, bandits and other natives. It was there the regiment earned the polar bear moniker.

The nickname stuck, and the polar bear is even part of the regiment's flag and insignia.

Cleaning up that rash

Getting a rash along your forehead or chin from wearing all of that headgear? There may be all kinds of things you can buy at the post exchange to deal with those problems, but before you spend too much money, try an old-fashioned solution, suggests Lt. Lt. R. Dennis Eller, 2nd platoon leader of Company B, 1st Battalion, 509th Airborne Infantry Regiment.

Eller, who got the tip from one of his soldiers, said: Remove the chin strap and cloth pieces inside the helmet "and soak [them] in

hot, soapy water."

Then — and Eller said this is the real trick — "really scrub" the material — an old toothbrush works well. Finally, rinse until the water runs clear.

"I was amazed at how much more comfortable a simple washing made the helmet," he said.

"I knew it had gotten really dirty," especially during the unit's long convoy from Kuwait to Baghdad, "but I had no idea just a good washing could make it feel so much better."

Kicking up a visit

Troops at Camp Streicher in northern Iraq got more than a visit from Tae Bo creator Billy Blanks on Sunday. They got a workout to boot.

The founder of the popular exercise program toured bases in Iraq, stopping for pictures and offering his encouragement. He also conducted a few Tae Bo classes for soldiers willing to jump, kick and punch their way through a class.

"I loved it," said Staff Sgt. Sherry Hidalgo in an Army news release.

"It's the best workout I've had in a long time. He showed a lot of patience, and led us into it step by step."

Blanks said in the release that the purpose of his visit was to say thank you to troops in Iraq.

"I didn't come halfway around the world to teach Tae Bo," he said.

"I came here to serve the



Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Billy Blanks visits with U.S. troops at Camp Streicher in northern Iraq on Sunday. Blanks, the creator of the exercise program Tae Bo, toured about 10 bases in the past week.

troops. It's a privilege and an honor to be here, and to be able to express my gratitude and admiration. These guys are my heroes."

Blanks, visiting this time with his daughter Shellie, has a long

record of visiting troops overseas.

"We've been to Bosnia, Kosovo, Serbia and Germany," he said.

"On this trip, we'll have 10 stops. It energizes me. They treat me awesome. They appreciate it so much."

Gls get fishing gear

BAGHDAD — While many American soldiers are intent on staying alive in an increasingly hostile Iraq, others are involved in catching fish.

Units of the 1st Cavalry Division, which operates in the Baghdad area, has recently been sent hundreds of rod and reels along with lures, hooks, lines and tackle boxes, a U.S. command release said Wednesday.

The gear, worth several thousand dollars, was donated by the Simmons Sporting Goods Company of Birmingham, Ala., after it heard that soldiers could fish in Iraq. Also delivered were "Fishing Iraq" T-shirts.

Filipinos' Iraq warning

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines government Tuesday urged its citizens not to defy a ban on going to Iraq for work, saying another hostage incident may not end as well as that of a Filipino truck driver freed by militants in July.

"We were successful in negotiating for the release of Angelo dela Cruz. Now we can see that it will be difficult to deal with a new hostage situation," presidential spokesman Ignacio Bunye said.

He appealed to the families of overseas Filipino workers "to explain to their relatives how dangerous the situation is now in Iraq" and the chances of being kidnapped.

Labor Secretary Patricia Santos Tomas said Sunday the government is drawing up evacuation plans for more than 4,000 Filipinos already working in Iraq if violence escalates.

The workers have been warned not to venture out of the U.S. camps where they are based, Santos Tomas said, adding that the government will distribute booklets explaining what to do in case of direct attacks on the bases.

Army re-up concerns

FORT CARSON, Colo. — Some soldiers have misinterpreted a new Army effort to encourage re-enlistment as a threat to send them to Iraq if they don't re-enlist, Army officials said Wednesday.

According to newspaper reports, soldiers from the 3rd Brigade Combat Team were told they faced reassignment to units expected to be deployed to Iraq or Korea if they did not re-enlist by the end of the month or extend their duty until the end of 2007.

Those who re-enlisted or extended would stay with the 3rd Brigade, which already has been deployed for a year in Iraq.

Rep. Diana DeGette, a Colorado Democrat, has demanded an investigation, but Army officials at Fort Carson, which claims the highest re-enlistment rate in the nation, deny the allegations.

"It's just not being done," post spokesman Lt. Col. David Johnson said. "We are a professional army. We want soldiers who want to be in the Army."

From wire reports

Campaign aims to clean up war's image

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration, battling negative perceptions of the Iraq war, is sending Iraqi Americans to deliver what the Pentagon calls "good news" about Iraq to U.S. military bases, and has curtailed distribution of reports showing increasing violence in that country.

The unusual public-relations effort by the Pentagon and the U.S. Agency for International Development comes as details have emerged showing the U.S. government and a representative of President Bush's re-election campaign had been heavily involved in drafting the speech given by Congress last week by interim Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi. Combined, they indicate that the federal government is working assiduously to improve Americans' opinions about the Iraq conflict — a key element of Bush's re-election message.

USAID said this week that it will restrict distribution of reports by contractor Kroll Security International showing that the number of daily attacks by insurgents in Iraq has in-

creased. On Monday, a day after The Washington Post published a front-page story saying "the Kroll reports suggest a broad and intensifying campaign of insurgent violence," a USAID official sent an e-mail to congressional aides stating: "This is the last Kroll report to come in.

After the WPPost story, they shut it down in order to reduce. I'll let you know when it restarts."

Asked about the Kroll reports Wednesday, USAID spokesman Jeffrey Grieco said: "The agency has restricted its circulation to those contractors and grantees who continue to work in Iraq." He said the reports were given to congressional officials who sought them, but the Kroll reports will now be "restricted to those who need it for security planning in Iraq." An agency official said the decision was unrelated to the Post story and was based on a fear that the reports "would fall into insurgents' hands."

Meanwhile, Defense Secretary Donald

Rumsfeld's office has sent commanders of U.S. military facilities a five-page memorandum titled "Guidance to Commanders." The Pentagon, the memo says, is sponsoring a group of Iraqi Americans and former officials from the Coalition Provisional Authority to speak at military bases throughout the United States starting Friday to provide "a first-hand account" of events in Iraq. The Iraqi Americans and the CPA officials worked on establishing the interim Iraqi government. The Iraqi Americans "feel strongly that the benefits of the coalition efforts have not been

fully reported," the memo says.

The memo says the presentations are "designed to be uplifting accounts with good news messages." The memo anticipates controversy and offers reassurance that those on the tour "are not political policy makers" and said commanders at each base "are in the best position on how to market this voluntary advancement program effectively."

The presentations are "designed to be uplifting accounts with good news messages."

Fall offensive hinges on Iraq vote

Tribal talks continue

By ROBERT BURNS

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A U.S. military offensive planned in key Iraqi cities this fall could still be delayed or avoided altogether. One key factor in deciding whether to press ahead is if Baghdad and Washington settle for partial, rather than full, Iraqi participation in elections in January.

Another problem arguing against an early offensive: Fears that Iraqi forces may not be strong enough to hold cities like Fallujah and Ramadi, even if American forces manage to root out insurgents there, Pentagon officials and defense analysts say.

An offensive also carries risks — including numerous civilian casualties and the danger of further inflaming anti-U.S. feelings — with no assurance it would put an end to the insurgency, which even Bush administration officials concede is getting worse as Iraqi elections approach.

Despite all that, U.S. forces and their Iraqi allies may be compelled to strike hard in Fallujah and other Sunni Triangle cities where insurgents are in control, if they conclude that stability there is essential to a legitimate election, Pentagon and outside analysts say.

But it may not be too late to get the same result more peacefully, they say. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld alluded to this last week when he said the options in Iraq boil down to two choices: solve it diplomatically through negotiations or solve it with force.

Repeated airstrikes in recent days on rebel strongholds in Fallujah as well as parts of Baghdad appeared to be designed to lay the groundwork for a fall offensive, and to demonstrate the will described by Rumsfeld.

Iraq's interim prime minister, Ayad Allawi, said in Washington last week that elections must go forward in January, and President Bush has ended that approach. On Monday, Allawi warned that a "decisive military solution" may be coming soon, but he also pursued talks with tribal leaders in Fallujah and



U.S. Army military vehicles withdraw from the U.S. military checkpoint at the entrance of Fallujah, Iraq, in April. The U.S. military is looking at a major offensive this fall against the centers of resistance in Iraq, including Fallujah, but officials and analysts say it may be avoided or delayed if Baghdad and Washington settle for partial elections in January 2005.

other restive areas.

"Having a massive, division-size U.S. operation — while it ultimately may be necessary — is not the way to go" now, said Anthony Cordesman, a military expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington.

There is still time to avoid an all-out offensive and its attendant risks, and whether it goes forward this fall depends on several tough judgment calls, said Andrew Krepinovich, a former Pentagon analyst who heads the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments in Washington.

For example, must balloting in the January election of a national assembly be truly nationwide, to include Fallujah and other areas where insurgents are in partial or total control? If so, then a U.S.-led military offensive may be required, Krepinovich said.

But that raises another tough question: "It's not clear that the United States has the forces necessary to engage in those kinds of operations across the country," or that Iraqi forces will be sufficiently trained in time to reliably hold gains achieved in a U.S. offensive, Krepinovich said.

The United States has about

135,000 troops in Iraq, joined by 25,000 coalition troops.

The number of Iraqi troops is harder to pinpoint. The Pentagon says there are 39,000 trained Iraqi National Guard members and about 4,800 trained Iraqi Army soldiers.

But Cordesman says there is unlikely to be a "significant" trained Iraqi force until March.

If the Iraqi interim government and the Bush administration are willing to proceed with an election that excludes voters in Fallujah and other rebel-held areas, then an all-out offensive could wait until next year.

Labour backs Blair on troops

Decision helps leader try for a third term

By ED JOHNSON
The Associated Press

BRIGHTON, England — Prime Minister Tony Blair won the backing of his Labour Party on Thursday to keep British troops in Iraq, avoiding a humiliating defeat that would have undermined his premiership.

Although resentment over the war still simmers among delegates, Blair emerged from his party's five-day convention scratched but intact, and looking ahead to national elections expected next year.

Labour members voted overwhelmingly on a show of hands to support the government's position that its troops were in Iraq with the backing of the United Nations and the agreement of the interim Iraqi government.

More than 85 percent of delegates voted to overturn a grassroots motion that demanded Blair set an early date for withdrawing British troops. A defeat would not have altered government policy but would have been an embarrassing blow to Blair, who has battled to unite his party and focus on winning a third term in power.

"I know that there are those in this party and in our country that opposed our intervention in Iraq. I respect their opinion," Defense Secretary Geoff Hoon told the conference in a closing day debate on Britain's role in Iraq. "But whatever your views, we must now work to defeat terrorism. Now is the time to unite, to help the Iraqi people rebuild their country, their economy, their lives."

The conference in the southern coastal resort of Brighton was intended as a springboard for national elections, widely expected in May. Ministers announced a plethora of new policies they hope will appeal to the electorate: an increase in affordable child care provision; longer maternity leave; and more community officers to support police.

But, like last year, the conference was overshadowed by the war.

Two British soldiers died in an ambush on their convoy near the southern city of Basra on Tuesday, bringing the total killed in Iraq to 67. British contractor Kenneth Bigley, held hostage by Islamic militants in Iraq, appeared Wednesday in video footage released to the Arab news network Al-Jazeera, begging from inside his cage for Blair to intervene to save his life.

Thursday's vote was an important show of support for Blair, whose popularity has nose-dived since backing the U.S.-led war in Britain. With its 9,000 troops there is the largest contingent in the multinational force behind the United States.

NATO adds more troops to training plan

The Associated Press

BRUSSELS, Belgium — NATO is considering plans that could eventually call for up to 3,000 troops taking part in a mission to train officers for Iraq's new army, military officials said Thursday.

The NATO troops would include soldiers to protect the training mission as well as instructors, said military officials, speaking on the condition of anonymity.

NATO diplomats had previously said the training operation would likely involve only a few hundred allied soldiers, although the 3,000 figure had come up in debates on the mission in recent weeks.

The officials stressed that the larger figure was provisional and represented a maximum ceiling.

They said the mission would likely start much smaller, and insisted no definitive troop numbers had yet been decided on.

Gen. James L. Jones, the alliance's top commander, reportedly said Thursday that NATO planners were working with an upper limit of 3,000 soldiers, although he said the figure might well be lower.

Allied officials said Jones suggested that some of the troops involved could be those already in Iraq serving with the U.S.-led coalition force.

NATO allies approved an outline of the training plan last week.

But the outline did not say how many troops would be involved.

Representatives from the 26 NATO allies are due next week to discuss a more detailed blueprint presented by the military planners.

The alliance envoys are also due have talks on Oct. 8 with U.S. Lt. Gen. David Petraeus, who will command the NATO mission in Iraq, as well as a wider U.S.-led effort to rebuild Iraq's military.

'Screwdriver' tweaked Iraq war from afar

Dempsey: Commanders often fielded questions from political leaders

By JON R. ANDERSON
Stars and Stripes

HEIDELBERG, Germany — Senior tactical commanders fresh from the war in Iraq say they were routinely taking questions directly from top political leaders — from the president to foreign ministers of defense — on the day-to-day conduct of the war.

"There is this thing we call the 6,000-mile screwdriver, where they will fine-tune operations from 6,000 miles away. It exists," Maj. Gen. Martin Dempsey told a gathering of mostly senior officers and enlisted soldiers during his keynote address during the Land Combat Expo on Wednesday afternoon.

Dempsey is commander of the Germany-based 1st Armored Division, which just returned from Iraq after 15 months in combat, the longest combat deployment for an entire division since World War II.

While Dempsey said he was routinely peppered with questions and visits from congressional leaders and top Pentagon officials during his tour, his boss, Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, "did a marvelous job of shielding me" from too much distraction from the fight.

Asked about the amount of pressure exerted from inside the Washington Beltway, Dempsey said, "I didn't feel too much. But if you ask Gen. Sanchez that question I think you'll get a far different answer."

Sanchez hinted at those pressures during own presentation Thursday.

"We were interfacing with the [National Security Council] and the president on an almost weekly basis, two [to] three times a month, with advice pertinent to the theater of operation," said Sanchez.

By calling Sanchez, President Bush and his staff regularly jumped at least three rungs of the chain of command — the secretary of defense, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the head of the U.S. Central Command — with guidance for the war.

Sanchez, now based in Germany and still the commander of V Corps, declined to be interviewed and avoided any direct allegation of actual interference from political leaders.

Dempsey was less shy.

Dempsey pointed to a recent book making the rounds among military thinkers, Elliot Cohen's "Supreme Command."

"The theme of which is, that war is too important to be left to the generals. That in a democracy the political leader, in this case the president, needs to take an active role in the conduct of the war," said Dempsey. "I don't know if I agree with that or not."

Dempsey said there has been long-standing concern that technology would come to a point where leaders could micromanage even individual soldiers on the battlefield.



Maj. Gen. Martin Dempsey

"That was always the fear when I was a young officer, that some day someone was going to have so much information that they'd be telling you which way to turn and how to fight," said Dempsey.

"I haven't seen that, honestly," he said, but added quickly, "I think the kind of interference that does exist, and the kind that Gen. Sanchez experienced, is this idea of momentum."

Dempsey said it was difficult but possible to take stock of his unit's progress as the insurgency dragged on in Iraq.

"That's the kind of measuring you can do at the tactical level that you can't do at the strategic level. The frustration in Washington, I think, is the enduring question, 'Are we winning?' That's a hard question to answer," said Dempsey.

"The answer is yes, by the way. But you can't quantify it right now."

Telling indicators, he said, was the successful return of sovereignty this summer and the upcoming elections.

"Those are measures of we're winning," said Dempsey, "but they're balanced in the negative with press reports of car bombings going off in Baghdad. So the frustration in Washington is how do we measure whether or not we're winning. I had a difficult time doing that myself."

Meanwhile, Dempsey told Stars and Stripes, Sanchez was often busy taking "phone calls from the chiefs of defense from the 34 like-minded nations, I guess we call them. And then, of course, he'd have the issue of defining momentum. Which frankly is a fascinating question that persists even today."

"I felt like in Baghdad and subsequently in the southern part of Iraq that we had momentum. I don't know what question is answered at the national level," Dempsey said.

"But Gen. Sanchez was clearly in the position of having that question asked of him and asked of him by any number of organizations — military and civilian."

Charlie Conon in Heidelberg contributed to this story.

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The future of personal firearms



RAYMOND T. CONWAY/Stars and Stripes

Lt. Col. Kevin Stoddard, project manager for Crew Served Weapons, briefs Army military police officers on the latest developments of weapons for the individual soldier Tuesday at the USAREUR Land Combat Expo in Heidelberg, Germany.

Sanchez: Iraq opens new age of warfare

By CHARLIE CONON

Stars and Stripes

HEIDELBERG, Germany — The war in Iraq is a lot like those that will be fought in the future, as today's U.S. military has found out.

"This was an enemy that we could not master with our technological capability," Lt. Gen. Ricardo S. Sanchez said Thursday, echoing the observations of other top generals who spoke at this week's Land Combat Expo 2004.

"To some extent, the future is now for war-fighting; this corps was facing that over the course of the last year," said Sanchez, former commander of Combined Joint Task Force 7, the U.S.-led military coalition that overthrew former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein in spring 2003 and has been fighting an insurgency ever since.

Sanchez cited the changing face of the enemy, the broad and changing range of stability and resistance in different parts of the country, the complexity of working with international forces, and the varying sentiments of the Iraqi people on the presence of U.S. and other foreign troops.

"Are we liberators or occupiers? It's a matter of perspective," said Sanchez, the V Corps commander. "There were a lot of Iraqis who truly embraced us as liberator, but there was an enemy out there and a culture out there that still saw us as occupiers."

"Part of it is us understanding the Middle Eastern culture and the Iraqi culture. ... Just [our] mere presence equals 'occupier,' even though you're providing them with everything they need to live, to revitalize their economy and to give them freedom and democracy and all those things that we value."



JON R. ANDERSON/Stars and Stripes

Wrapping up the keynote speeches for the Army's Land Combat Expo in Heidelberg, Germany, V Corps commander Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez discusses his view of the war in Iraq, where he led coalition forces from June 2003 to May 2004.

SEE SANCHEZ ON PAGE 8

Surface warfare officers now have options

By SANDRA JONTZ
Stars and Stripes

Promotions, new duties now available for SWOs without ship command

ARLINGTON, Va. — The Navy launched a new career program Thursday aimed at retaining surface warfare officers who don't get selected to command a ship but desire to stay Navy.

With the fleet size decreasing, the Navy has limited options available for surface warfare officers to follow the traditional path of eventually commanding a ship, said Rear Adm. Michael LeFever, deputy director of Expeditionary Warfare Division.

"It allows people to have more options in their career. We knew up front that not everybody may aspire to take command of a ship, but we know there is some great talent and some great leadership skills and knowledge developed out in the fleet that we can capitalize on."

"It allows us to keep people with these critical skill sets that [are] vital not only to surface warfare,

but also to the Navy," LeFever said.

In the SWO community, where command of a ship is everything, the program amounts to a huge cultural change in the Navy, he said.

"We had a system in which if you didn't attain [command-at-sea], you didn't get promoted. It is a culture change, and I think we tend to realize there was tremendous talent out here that we are wasting, for one reason or another."

Rear Adm.

Michael LeFever

Deputy director of

Expeditionary Warfare Division

cards for them, but they would really like to specialize in an area because that's their passion.

"Because they didn't attain [sea command], we essentially didn't promote them and kind of pushed them to the wayside. I think we're realizing ... this is a huge talent base with incredible experience in

management and leadership skills that we can't afford to throw away."

It also gives upper echelon of officers the option of staying on shore duty without hurting their careers, he said.

SWOs taking the new career path options also are eligible for critical skills bonuses totaling a possible \$46,000 for a full three-year re-enlistment commitment. Details of the bonuses are detailed in NAVADMIN at www.persnet.navy.mil/navadmin/nav02/nav03226.txt.

There are about 8,000 sailors ranked in the targeted O-3 to O-6 paygrades, but those eligible to apply are SWOs who have started the second of their required two 18-month department head tours, and have completed five years of at-sea experience. To apply, they must submit a written application through both commanding officer and to PERS-41, or the Surface Warfare Officer Distribution Division.

At the end of the second department head tour, the next assignment either would be to the chosen specialty job, or to an educational post to prepare, LeFever said.

The new career paths in six existing specialty areas include:

■ Antiterrorism/Force Protec-

tion

- Anti-submarine warfare
- Missile Defense
- Mine Warfare Specialist
- Shore Installation Management
- Strategic Sealift

The shore installation management, for example, is a "huge win" for both career-bound officers and the Navy, he said. The traditional career path prep sailors to command at sea, "and then all of a sudden we send an officer ... into a position of trying to run public works ... a little city."

The new career path would incrementally increase such respon-

sibilities, he said. "They would have repetitive tours and understand the business ... get smart about how to run the bases and manage enterprise of working the shore establishment."

The first selection board will convene in January to pick the first batch of SWOs opting to take the outlined specialty career path. Subsequent boards, chaired by a SWO flag officer, will convene twice a year in January and July, LeFever said.

NAVADMIN 220.04 has the detailed process to apply and a form letter template.

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AF lawyer leaves job amid inquiry

By THOMAS E. RICKS

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The top lawyer in the Air Force has temporarily given up his job after coming under investigation for allegedly having an inappropriate sexual relationship with a female subordi-

nate and perhaps with other women, Pentagon officials said Wednesday.

The case is also significant because Air Force lawyers have been among the most vocal over the past two years in challenging the Bush administration's handling of detainee issues.

In December 2002, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld approved the use of harsh interrogation techniques against suspected al-Qaida and Taliban fighters held prisoner at the Navy base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. But military interrogators at Guantanamo complained to superior officers that techniques they were asked to use, such as stripping prisoners to humiliate them and using dogs to scare them, were abusive. That provoked an extended Defense Department review, during which military lawyers for each of the services forcefully expressed their concerns, officials said.

After an intense bureaucratic struggle, the lawyers, including Fiscus, persuaded Rumsfeld to rescind his approval of those interrogation procedures.

"The timing of it is certainly suspect, given [Fiscus'] office's opposing OSD [the Office of the Secretary of Defense] on detainee issues," Sheldon said.

Fiscus has been the Air Force's top uniformed lawyer since February 2002. His position oversees all military lawyers for each of the services and other civilian employees. He graduated from the Air Force Academy in 1972 and from Ohio State University's law school in 1975. During the 1990s he held several of the Air Force's highest-profile legal jobs.

Lucy Shackelford of The Washington Post contributed to this report.

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Shorter tours only after transformation

Preston: Six-month deployments would be chaotic under current structure

BY JESSICA INIGO
Stars and Stripes

FRANKFURT, Germany — Recent Army reports on shortening combat tours to six months will work only after more brigades are added to the Army's inventory through transformation, according to Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston.

Making deployments shorter

right now would be chaotic for units tapped for back-to-back deployments, Preston said Thursday during a stop in Germany.

Soldiers would have little or no down time between integrating at home and preparing to deploy, Preston said.

"By the time they finish their block leave, they'd start right back into their train-up cycle — you know, getting soldiers trained, qualified, certified. It would be a

very fast-paced, hectic operation," Preston said. "It wouldn't be very good for the soldiers."

Preston said that with the way the Army is structured now, having yearlong deployments works better because units get at least a year at home before their next rotation. Future transformation is going to attach soldiers to units for longer periods of time to keep them in sync with deployment rotations, as well as add more bri-

gades to lessen the load for everyone, he said.

"That's why in the next two years, the number of the brigades that we're going to grow [through transformation] is going to help prevent that back-to-back. That's what's going to get us out of 12-month-long deployments into something else."

During a television interview with American Forces Network, Preston said more brigades and fixed duty stations would make it easier to shorten combat tours.

"We want to slow down the pace of operations for these families," he said, adding that troops would be able to deploy for six months and come right back to their home station.

"Family stays in place, kid stays in school: That's the stability we want to give to soldiers," and families."

He later told Stars and Stripes that this stability, plus the pressure that would be taken off units currently tapped for multiple yearlong deployments, is why transformation is so important.

The upcoming transformation will be the largest change in Army structure since World War II, increasing the Army from 33 brigades to 43 brigades by the end of 2006, with the option of going to 48 brigades by 2007.

Transformation specifically in Europe, however, is going to be spread out over a longer period of time, he said. This is to give not



Sgt. Maj. of the Army
Kenneth O. Preston

only the military, but also the civilian community more years to react.

"The president has set in motion the plan right now over the next decade for 60 to 70 thousand soldiers that are based overseas to move back to [continental U.S.] installations," he said. "The reason why it's spread out that long is that it's going to be a very slow and very deliberate process."

"What we don't want to do is make an announcement one day and then start moving soldiers the next. It takes much longer than that."

Preston said European transformation concerns include issues such as housing, schools and entire community installations.

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Quick clip on display



RAYMOND T. CONWAY/Stars and Stripes

Guy Tal demonstrates the quick loading and unloading capability of a magazine loader made by Maglula Ltd. and used by the Israeli Defense Force on Tuesday at the USAREUR Land Combat Expo in Heidelberg, Germany.

Sanchez: Troops got mixed messages

SANCHEZ, FROM PAGE 6

Sanchez praised coalition troops for being adaptable and doing jobs that were not in their job description as a soldier. But the troops sometimes got back mixed messages from the people they were trying to help.

"It doesn't matter to them," Sanchez said. "They still need you out of there. [But] they say, 'We don't want you here, but we don't want you to go.' They would tell us that freely — 'We don't want you here, but don't leave.' So how do we resolve that?"

Sanchez spoke Thursday before about 1,500 people inside a packed Village Pavilion ballroom at Patrick Henry Village. His statements reinforced observations made Wednesday by Maj. Gen. Martin Dempsey and Lt. Gen. William S. Wallace.

Wallace, whose V Corps led the toppling of Saddam in spring 2003, acknowledged the U.S. military at times was slow to react to the shifting dynamics and sentiments of the Iraqi people, thus missing opportunities to win their support.

For months after the toppling of Saddam's re-

gime, Sanchez said, U.S. soldiers were the face of the coalition's public relations effort to win the peace in the war-torn nation.

"For the soldier, it means communicating with the people and talking to them about what's going on in their country, and trying to communicate what the future looks like," Sanchez said. "That's very, very difficult, and the soldier is the guy that's out there — 180,000 of them [including non-U.S. troops] — that are touching the people across the entire country."

Working with militaries from other nations has been easier said than done. Some militaries, for example, brought weapons and were well trained.

Others brought no weapons and weren't trained. "Our definition of self-defense is different than other countries' [definitions] and you have to understand it as a commander at every level," Sanchez said.

National caveats, such as differing rules of engagement, are something Sanchez said he hoped future coalitions would iron out.

E-mail Charlie Coon at: coonc@mail.strips.osd.mil



JON R. ANDERSON/Stars and Stripes

Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez said U.S. troops got mixed messages from the Iraqi people, who saw them as occupiers but, at the same time, didn't want them to leave the country.

IN THE STATES

Microsoft, EU clash over antitrust case

By PAUL GETNER
The Associated Press

LUXEMBOURG — Microsoft Corp. told a European Union court Thursday that it would suffer irreparable harm if forced to reveal more of its software code to rivals, while the EU said such information was "indispensable" to keep competitors alive. The U.S. software giant and its allies sought to get the Luxembourg-based Court of First Instance to suspend the EU's far-reaching antitrust order, which would force dramatic changes in Microsoft's business strategy.

Court president Bo Vesterdorp must decide whether to grant the stay while Microsoft's appeal is being heard — a process

Company looks to suspend order to reveal more technical specifications to its rivals

that could take years — or allow it to take effect immediately.

The European Commission found Microsoft guilty in March of abusing its dominant position with the Windows operating system — which runs some 90 percent of computers worldwide — to push into new markets like servers, which connect desktop computers into networks.

Microsoft was ordered to hand over more technical specifications to rivals in the workgroup server market so that com-

petitors' products could communicate better with Microsoft products.

Microsoft insisted it already provides enough information to the market to allow that "interoperability," citing the rise of the rival Linux system in recent years as a case in point.

"Without the (additional) protocols, a new product has been able to come from nowhere and get one-sixth of the market in just a few years," Microsoft lawyer Ian Forrester told the court.

Rejecting the claim that urgent action was needed, Forrester noted that those Microsoft rivals that originally launched complaints, such as Sun Microsystems Inc. and Novell Inc., are "still around and still viable five years later."

But the EU's executive commission and its allies were just as insistent that the order be implemented now to prevent Microsoft from consolidating its grip on new markets and driving competitors out of business.

Christopher Thomas, representing Novell, spoke of a "clear and urgent threat to survival of competition." He also argued that Microsoft had offered to provide the same information during aborted settlement talks early this year.

Pilot, designer say SpaceShipOne could fly again next week

By JOHN ANTCAZK
The Associated Press

MOJAVE, Calif. — The pilot and designer of a private rocket plane say they are confident it could return to the sky next week in a quest to claim a multimillion-dollar prize, despite a harrowing flight in which the spacecraft rolled dramatically while hurtling toward the edge of the atmosphere.

As spectators and controllers nervously watched from the ground, SpaceShipOne corkscrewed dozens of times Wednesday at nearly three times the speed of sound.

Test pilot Michael Melvill ignored a warning to abort Wednesday's flight to complete the first stage of a quest to win a \$10 million. The problem was being analyzed by the spacecraft's builders, who must decide whether to proceed with another flight Monday, well ahead of the two-week deadline to qualify for the Ansari



SpaceShipOne comes in for a landing Wednesday in Mojave, Calif., after making its suborbital flight as the Mojave Aerospace Ventures Team attempts to win the Ansari X Prize.

X Prize.

Melvill and spacecraft designer Burt Rutan said Wednesday that they were confident the Monday flight would go on. Rutan said

rolling occurred during flight simulations, and it was not a complete surprise when it happened.

"We don't know exactly what went wrong. It's likely that it was

Astronaut says space tourism fast away

PRAGUE, Czech Republic — Eugene Cernan, the last man to walk on the moon during the final Apollo landing, said Thursday he doesn't expect space tourism to become reality in the near future, despite a strong demand. Cernan, now 70, who was commander of NASA's Apollo 17 mission and set foot on the lunar surface in December 1972 during his third space flight, acknowledged that "there are many people interested in space tourism."

But the former astronaut said he believed "we are a long way away from the day when we can send a bus of tourists to the moon."

He spoke to reporters before being awarded a medal by the Czech Academy of Sciences for his contribution to science.

"I think the day... is very near we can send a school teacher, a student, a poet, an artist... a journalist into space," Cernan said. Those space travelers, he said, would "come back and share with the rest of the world their feelings and thoughts."

Cernan was responding to a plan announced by Richard Branson, the British airline mogul and adventurer, for a new "Virgin Galactic" space line.

From The Associated Press

something silly I did," Melvill told NBC's "Today" show on Thursday.

The Ansari X Prize will go to the first craft to safely complete two flights in a 14-day span to an altitude of 62 miles — generally considered the point where the Earth's atmosphere ends and space begins.

The X Prize Foundation is offering the bounty in hopes of inspir-

ing an era of space tourism in which spaceflight is not just the domain of government agencies such as NASA.

Rutan, with more than \$20 million from billionaire Paul Allen, secretly developed SpaceShipOne — which has a wing span of just 16.4 feet — and is well ahead of two dozen teams building X Prize contenders around the world.

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W.Va. residents mixed about Stewart's prison assignment

The Associated Press

ALDERSON, W.Va. — There are no gates or fences, and most days anyone can drive straight to the warden's home at the Federal Correctional Institute here.

But after Martha Stewart announced that this is where she will serve her time starting Oct. 8 for lying to federal investigators, a corrections officer was stationed at the entrance to turn back reporters and the just plain curious.

"Martha Stewart will come here, and we hope she will want to come back after she's released," resident Karen Lobban said. "This is a beautiful community."

Stewart, 63, said in a statement Wednesday that she had hoped to be imprisoned closer to her family, but was pleased that the gov-

ernment had assigned her "so quickly."

Stewart's new prison home is tucked into a town of about 1,000 residents that relies on inmates to clean up the river banks, mow grass and pick up trash. The inmate-staffed fire department assists the town's volunteer department when needed.

Other Alderson residents were scarcely aware of the federal celebrity sent to do her time in West Virginia.

"We have more serious things to worry about, like floods and hurricanes," said Joanne Jones, a clerk at the local IGA food store.

Stewart and former stockbroker Peter Bacanovic were convicted of lying to federal investigators about why Stewart sold 3,928 shares of ImClone Systems Inc. stock in December 2001.

Court strikes down portion of Patriot Act

Undisclosed searches of phone, Net records deemed unconstitutional

BY LARRY NEUMEISTER
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The Justice Department likely will appeal a court ruling that declared unconstitutional a Patriot Act provision allowing secret and unchallenged searches of Internet and telephone records, Attorney General John Ashcroft said Thursday.

In a blow to the Justice Department's post-Sept. 11 powers, federal Judge Victor Marrero on Wednesday struck down the provision that let the FBI gather phone and Web customer records but barred service providers from ever disclosing the search took place.

Ashcroft, in the Netherlands to meet with European Union officials, said he would study the decision upon returning to Washington, but "it's almost a certainty it will be appealed."

"We believe the act to be completely consistent with the United States Constitution," he told reporters.

While Marrero called national security of "paramount value" and the government "must be empowered to respond promptly and effectively" to threats, he also called personal security equal in importance and "especially prized in our system of justice."

The decision is the second time a judge

has ruled unconstitutional part of the Patriot Act, a package of prosecution and surveillance tools passed shortly after the terrorism of Sept. 11, 2001.

In January, a federal judge in Los Angeles struck down a section of the act that made it a crime to give "expert advice or assistance" to groups designated foreign terrorist organizations.

The judge said the language was too vague, threatening First and Fifth Amendment rights.

American Civil Liberties Union attorney Jameel Jaffer called the latest ruling a "landmark victory," and "a wholesale refutation of excessive government secrecy and unchecked executive power."

Marrero said his ruling blocks the government from issuing new requests for phone and Internet records "in this or any other case," but delayed the injunction by 90 days to allow time for an appeal.

The judge said the law violates the Fourth Amendment because it bars or restricts any judicial challenge to the government searches, and violates the First Amendment because its permanent ban on disclosure is a prior restraint on speech.

He noted that the Supreme Court recently said that a "state of war is not a blank check for the president when it comes to the rights of the nation's citizens."

"Sometimes a right, once extinguished, may be gone for good," Marrero wrote.

Bush Guard document

WASHINGTON — The White House on Wednesday night produced a November 1974 document bearing President Bush's signature from Cambridge, Mass., where he was attending Harvard Business School, saying he had decided not to continue as a member of the military reserve.

The document, signed a year after Bush left the Texas Air National Guard, said he was leaving the military because of "inadequate time to fulfill possible future commitments."

Bosnian indicted

BOSTON — A Bosnian national accused of participating in the execution of thousands of Muslims in the former Yugoslavia was indicted Wednesday on charges he lied on immigration documents to get into the United States.

The charges announced by U.S. Attorney Michael Sullivan included the first formal allegations that Marko Boskic was an executioner in a military unit that carried out one of the worst incidents of genocide in Europe since World War II.

The 40-year-old Boskic was arrested Aug. 25 at his condominium in Peabody.

Shark 'control zone'

FALMOUTH, Mass. — Menacing. A threat to public safety. And that's just the sightseers.

Officials on Thursday enforced a "control zone" to keep people away from a great white shark that has patrolled a lagoon off Nauset Island, near Cape Cod, for more than a week.

Marine biologists had hoped the exceptionally high tides associated with the remnants of Hurricane Jeanne would cause the shark to leave. But that didn't happen.

Naming the justices

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court will get rid of a little bit of secrecy next week when it abolishes the practice of keeping justices' names out of the official record of argument sessions.

For decades, transcripts have listed "Question," without identifying the questioner.

Reporters and legal scholars have complained that the practice was unusual, especially because the sessions are open to the public.

From The Associated Press

Sizable seismic events in Western U.S.



THE (WASH.) COLUMBIAN/AP

The main crater and lava dome of Mount St. Helens is seen at the top of this aerial photo Wednesday in Mount St. Helens, Wash. The dome in the crater apparently is growing and moving slightly northward, a top volcano scientist said Wednesday.

Earthquakes continue to shake California; rumblings cause concern at Mount St. Helens

The Associated Press

ARVIN, Calif. — Earthquakes on two separate faults rattled central California a day after a 6.0-quake jolted the region. No major damage or injuries were reported.

The tremors Wednesday were close enough in time and location to leave seismologists wondering about a possible link. A magnitude-5.0 earthquake shook Kern County, hours after a pair of aftershocks from Tuesday's quake rattled the earth more than 100 miles away in Monterey County.

Meanwhile, in Washington state, the flurry of earthquakes at Mount St. Helens intensified further Thursday, and scientists warn that a small or moderate blast could spew ash and rock as far as three miles from the crater in the next few days.

The Kern County, Calif., tremor triggered a rock slide on a state highway, but there were no reports of damage or injury, and the road was quickly cleared.

That earthquake struck 17 miles northwest of Arvin shortly before 4 p.m., said Anthony Guarino, a seismic analyst for the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena.

The quake was felt from Sacramento to Las Vegas. It was not an aftershock from Tues-

day's quake at Parkfield, 150 miles northwest, seismologists said.

There have been about 600 aftershocks to the Parkfield quake, including six of at least 4.0. Two of the biggest, 5.0 and 4.5, shook the region Wednesday morning, about 5 miles northwest of Parkfield, and the largest rattled window blinds in San Jose.

Susan Hough, a U.S. Geological Survey seismologist, said the aftershocks likely would dissipate, instead of signaling a larger quake to come. The deadly 6.7-magnitude tremor that hit the Northridge area of Los Angeles in 1994 was preceded by an earthquake sequence in the Salton Sea area.

In Washington, Mount St. Helens began rumbling last week and by Wednesday earthquakes ranging from magnitude 2 to 2.8 were coming about four times a minute, possibly weakening the lava dome in the crater of the 8,664-foot mountain, the U.S. Geological Survey said.

The quakes continued to strengthen early Thursday with several exceeding magnitude 3, according to the Web site of the Pacific Northwest Seismograph Network.

Still, scientists did not expect anything like the mountain's devastating eruption in 1980, which killed 57 people and coated towns 250 miles away with ash.

Intel bill provisions spark partisan dispute

BY JESSE J. HOLLAND
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — New immigration barriers and expanded police powers, as well as expanded use of public airwaves for emergency services, are some of the issues trying to find a home in a bill to overhaul U.S. spy agencies.

With the political pressure of an Election Day coming up, Democrats are complaining that too many items they consider extraneous have gotten tacked onto legislation designed to enact recommendations of the Sept. 11 commission on better fighting terrorism.

"There are many provisions in this bill that have no relation or tangential relation to the 9/11

commission report," Rep. Jerry Nadler, D-N.Y., said Wednesday. "We should consider them in a bill separate from this."

The House and Senate are churning their way through separate bills to create a national intelligence director and a national counterterrorism center to address the Sept. 11 commission's complaint that the nation's intelligence agencies didn't work together properly to stop the terrorist attacks on New York City and Washington.

However, those two ideas — that an intelligence director should exist before Election Day and have a counterterrorism center to help fight terrorism — are about the only things that the House, Senate and White House agree on so far.

House Republicans who want the Sept. 11 bill to include other anti-terrorism and immigration enforcement powers produced a 200-plus-page package of bills that had introduced before the Sept. 11 report came out. Five House committees — Armed Services, Financial Services, Judiciary, Government Reform and Intelligence — completed their markup of the bill on Wednesday, with Republicans blocking attempts from Democrats to strip GOP provisions out of the bill or to substitute a Senate bill that deals only with creating a national intelligence director.

By doing a large, comprehensive bill that would increase police powers and implement new illegal immigration measures such

as denying immigrants certain court appeals and allowing more people to be arrested on accusations of supporting a terrorist group, House Judiciary Chairman James Sensenbrenner, R-Wis., says they're responding to what the Sept. 11 commission wants: greater security for America.

If "we don't deal with law enforcement and immigration issues, we basically can peel off the back part of the 9/11 commission recommendation and say that things are fine and we can do business as usual," he said before his committee approved its bill on a nearly partisan vote.

All the Democrats voted against the bill Wednesday except Rep. Adam Schiff of California.

Overseas voters know how important their ballots are

BY BETH DUFF-BROWN
The Associated Press

NEW DELHI — On election night in November 2000, voters gathered at the American Center in New Delhi to watch the returns.

When Democrats and Republicans alike saw the close results coming in, some were compelled to sheepishly admit that they hadn't bothered to vote.

They had thought their absentee ballots weren't really count, or were too difficult to prepare, or would be lost by the Indian post or U.S. diplomatic pouch.

Americans living in India, and dozens of countries worldwide, are determined that won't happen this time around.

"People know the absentee vote potentially turned the election the last time," said Carolyn Savage-Mar, an American living in the Indian capital who is pushing compatriots to vote. "This race is close enough that it hinges upon who's going to get out there and vote — and so much is at stake in this election."

In 2000, George W. Bush's election victory was certified only after the overseas ballots were counted. Though Al Gore won the popular vote nationally, Bush won the electoral vote after being

certified the winner by 537 votes in Florida.

"The reality is that the expat vote actually decided the last election," said Sumana Brahman, coordinator of Americans Abroad in India. She and Savage-Mar, whose husband works for the U.N. Development Program, are helping Americans through the cumbersome process of getting

“The reality is that the expat vote actually decided the last election.”

Sumana Brahman
coordinator,
Americans Abroad in India

their absentee ballots in order.

"Too many people are disengaged from the process," said Brahman, a 43-year-old consultant with two children at the American Embassy School.

Americans living overseas did not have the right to vote in U.S. presidential elections until 1975, so both women see themselves as new-age suffragettes, defending their franchise.

They're reminding Americans that while they may have missed

the Sept. 15 deadline to request an absentee ballot by mail, they can still get it over the Internet and fax it to a Federal Assistance Voting Program center by early October, depending on their home state.

Getting ballots into the hands of Americans overseas can be a problem; federal officials say they should be mailed out 45 days ahead of the Nov. 2 election. But the key battleground states of Washington and Oregon are already late or running into problems.

Washington's ballots aren't expected to go to overseas voters until the week of Oct. 10. And Oregon, which mailed 10,000 overseas ballots by Sept. 18, must send out new ones because the Supreme Court ruled Ralph Nader's name could not be included.

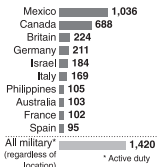
In Italy, where some 169,000 Americans live, the U.S. consulate in Rome reports an overwhelming demand for registration forms. The Washington-based Democrats Abroad had 30 overseas chapters in 2000 and now has a presence in 73 countries, including an Iraq chapter called "Donkeys in the Desert."

With its 492,000 overseas troops in mind, the Pentagon improved its Web site for absentee

Voices from abroad

The world has changed dramatically since the 2000 election, and Americans living abroad are no longer complacent. They are registering for their absentee ballots.

Top countries outside the U.S. where most American civilians and military personnel live:
In thousands



Sources: Association of Americans Residing Overseas; National Association of Secretaries of State

voters and promised faster mail service as part of efforts to avert a repeat of the balloting problems four years ago. The Defense Department plan also included TV and radio announcements and banners in commissaries and classrooms.

But the program ran into trouble this month over complaints that anti-hacker measures were preventing legitimate voters from using a Web site that assists soldiers and other Americans living overseas.

The Pentagon said it subsequently eased access to the site.

Minorities reign in California suburbia

BY RYAN PEARSON
The Associated Press

GARDEN GROVE, Calif. — Minorities now make up a majority of residents in Orange County, California's quintessential swath of suburbia, according to census data released Thursday.

Two other suburban counties — high-growth Riverside east of Los Angeles and wealthy San Mateo south of San Francisco — also joined 17 other California counties that reached majority-minority status as of 2000.

Two years later, they tipped the balance in Orange and San Mateo counties, which lost white residents as the number of nonwhite residents increased, according to an Associated Press analysis of the Census Bureau estimates.

Overall, 55 percent of California's 35.5 million residents are minorities, compared with 53 percent of 34 million residents in 2000, the data shows.

One city that illustrates the racial changes in Orange County, an area once known across the country as white, conservative and Republican, is Garden Grove, which was incorporated in 1956, at the height of the postwar population boom that transformed the county from a rural area to a sprawling suburb.

"We do really have a real salad bowl here," says Mayor Bruce Broadwater, noting that 82 languages are spoken in the households of the Garden Grove school district. The city also is home to one of the country's largest mosques, located in what was once a Protestant church.

Each year, Garden Grove has a Korean Festival, a Tet Festival and an Arab Festival, as well as the enduring Strawberry Festival, which recalls its agricultural days.

But some newer residents say friction exists between the old and new.

Katelyn Nguyen, 22, who moved to Orange County from Vietnam when she was 9 months old, says she has been called derogatory names.

She said she finds television's "The O.C.," which depicts a rich, white crowd living in Orange County, as amusing in how far it differs from reality.

Terry Thomas, who has lived in Garden Grove since 1945, said everyone is welcome in Orange County.

"It's not white suburbia," Thomas said. "It's suburbia, period. For all nationalities."

L.A.'s last winery clings to business

BY DAISY NGUYEN
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The sole survivor of Los Angeles' once booming wine industry is located in a gritty area just north of downtown, surrounded by a cement plant, parcel shipping depot and commuter rail line.

The San Antonio Winery bottles and ages wine in an ivy-covered urban facility that covers 2½ blocks. But its grapes are grown hundreds of miles away in Napa Valley and along the Central Coast.

A family business since 1917, it survived hard times and changing tastes among consumers by selling altar wine to churches and delivering table wine to the homes of immigrants who settled in the city and went to work for Southern Pacific railroad.

"My parents always say, try different things, go for it, don't sit back and live off the laurels," said Steve Riboli, vice president and marketing director. "That makes us strive to always do better."

Today, San Antonio is among the top 30 wineries in California, producing about 400,000

cases a year at its sites in Los Angeles and Paso Robles. It's also one of the nation's largest suppliers of altar wines, which are produced according to canon law that forbids additives and preservatives.

The reigning family patriarch, 83-year-old Santo Riboli, came from the Lombardy region of Italy in 1937 to help his uncle run the business. He recalled a time when dozens of wineries lined the Los Angeles River and dotted the nearby Lincoln Heights neighborhood.

"This was just a garage when I started," said Riboli, who was 17 then. "The night I arrived here, my uncle taught me how to wash barrels."

Throughout Prohibition, the Catholic family stayed afloat by supplying sacramental wine to local parishes, and delivering jugs to homes and restaurants instead of relying only on the business of local bars.

"Faith has given us strength, especially in hard times like the recessions," Steve Riboli said. "We made the decision a long time ago to stay in L.A. and be the winery of the immigrants, not leave because our customer base of Italians disappeared."



Wine taster Arnaud Debouché, originally from France, stands between French oak barrels to taste in the winery of the San Antonio Winery in Los Angeles.

Viiox pulled from market

TRENTON, N.J. — Pharmaceutical giant Merck & Co. is pulling its blockbuster arthritis drug Viiox from the market worldwide because new data from a clinical trial found an increased risk of heart attack and stroke.

Whitehouse Station-based Merck said Thursday that data from the trial showed the increased risk of heart attack and other cardiovascular complications began 18 months after patients started taking Viiox.

The data comes from a three-year study aimed at showing that Viiox at a 25 milligram dose prevents recurrence of polyps in the colon and rectum. The trial was stopped after Merck discovered the higher heart risk compared to patients taking dummy pills.

Sea turtle nests destroyed

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Hurricane Jeanne destroyed many of the sea turtle nests on Florida's central Atlantic beaches that had survived Charley and Frances, officials said.

Canaveral National Seashore lost more than 1,000 sea turtle nests during Frances and most of the remaining 300 to 400 during Jeanne, which hit last weekend, said John Steiner, the park's resource management specialist.

Corporate tax overhaul

WASHINGTON — Prospects are looking brighter for passage of a major U.S. corporate tax bill that would replace an outdated export subsidy program with alternative tax breaks.

But to win approval before Congress' expected adjournment next week, supporters must figure a way to resolve a politically explosive debate over regulation of tobacco products.

And that is just one of the nettlesome issues that must be settled by a House-Senate conference committee that began work Wednesday. Members are trying to iron out differences between House and Senate \$170 billion in corporate tax breaks over the next decade that was passed by the Senate in May and a \$155 billion bill passed by the House in June.

From The Associated Press

OPINION

More can be done to bolster Iraq elections

The Washington Post

Opponents of continued U.S. engagement in Iraq frequently describe what they say is the misguided illusion that "Jeffersonian democracy" can be established in that country. The pitch sounds hard-nosed and pragmatic — but Thomas Jefferson, we suspect, would not appreciate being used as a straw man.

There's no question that the Iraqi elections planned for January, and any government that follows from them, will fall well short of democratic ideals. Yet it's anything but realistic to portray democracy as a system that only works when it is pure. Not only was Jefferson's democracy not entirely democratic (just ask African-Americans and women), but the modern world is replete with examples of partially democratic countries — and, in most cases, their governments are better and their people freer than in the nondemocratic world.

Iraq may not become a "showcase" of democracy any time soon. But even flawed elections stand a chance of producing a government with more legitimacy and popular support than most others in the Arab Middle East. If successful, they are also a likelier route to stability in Iraq, and an eventual U.S. withdrawal, than the alternatives — particularly civil war or continued U.S. sponsorship of a non-elected regime. It follows that the Bush administration is right to press forward with plans for elections even under the

present difficult conditions. Almost any election would produce a more credible government than the current, U.N.-appointed administration — and delay would be a victory for extremists and an invitation to chaos.

Yet it is also possible to imagine elections so flawed that they would not have the hoped-for effect of sapping legitimacy from an insurgency that appears to be gaining ground. In that sense, there are at least three reasons for worry about the current preparations for a January vote. One is the inability, so far, of the United Nations to deploy the organizers needed to stage the balloting, and the related failure of the Bush administration to raise or deploy the protection force approved by the U.N. Security Council.

A second concern is the ambiguous statements of Bush administration and Iraqi officials about whether they are committed to holding elections in Sunni areas of Iraq — and to taking the military measures necessary to make voting possible. While elections held outside those areas could still allow participation by 80 percent or more of Iraqis, they would yield a government that excluded the very population from which most of the insurgency is now drawn. That would only encourage further resistance.

Third, the possible exclusion of Sunni voters has encouraged another questionable idea: the formation of a unified national election slate. This would ensure Sunni representation in the new National Assembly, but it might also turn the election into a one-sided



affair in which assembly seats were apportioned among half a dozen competing parties by backroom deals rather than voters' choices — and cause Shiite leaders who have supported the political process so far to turn against it. Although it can't necessarily control such political horse-trading, the

Bush administration shouldn't encourage it. Instead, it should aim to create the broadest possible choice for the largest number of voters. Even if the result is a less-friendly government, U.S. prospects in Iraq will improve in proportion to the degree of participation and fairness the elections achieve.

'When allies' 'interests do not overlap perfectly'

BY J. PETER SCOBILL

Friends and colleagues of Donald Keyser, a 61-year-old former State Department official suspected of passing government documents to Taiwanese intelligence officials, expressed shock at his arrest this month. "The hardest thing to understand is that the word 'integrity' comes to mind when I think of Don Keyser," Chas Freeman, a longtime China hand, told The Washington Post. Said David Shambaugh, director of the China policy program at George Washington University, "We're all just collectively stunned and asking each other what to make of this."

In a slightly different form, it's a fair question for the rest of us to be asking as well: That are we supposed to make of the fact that a friendly nation appears to be spying on the United States? The question seems particularly germane given that last month Pentagon analyst Larry Franklin was reported to be under investigation for passing a draft of the president's policy on Iran to Israel via an influential pro-Israel lobbying organization in Washington. What was it these countries could not just ask for? The answer, of course, is this: whatever they think they need that we won't give them. Spying, it turns out, is common among friends.

According to the National Countersintelligence Center, more than 90 countries have an intelligence presence in the United States, and we're on relatively good terms with all of the chief culprits — China, Japan, Israel, France, South Korea, Taiwan and India. They spy on us for the same reason: the same reason our enemies do: National interests do not overlap perfectly. And, though many friendly spy cases involve industrial espionage, interests among allies can diverge on critical security issues as well. When that happens, intelligence work becomes a reflection of realpolitik at its most amoral, where self-interest is paramount, "friend" is a relative word and the rule of the game is don't get caught. Taiwan and Israel are case studies in the process.

A 1979 law requires the United States to

provide Taiwan with the means to defend itself, and over the last two decades we have supplied the island with billions of dollars in materiel. In April 2001, President Bush said the United States would "do whatever it took" to defend Taiwan from China and backed up his pledge by authorizing the sale of four Kidd-class destroyers and eight diesel submarines to Taipei.

For all that, Taiwan doesn't particularly trust us. The problem is that, while ostensibly committed to the island's defense, the United States is also clearly committed to improving relations with China.

When the United States steps too close to the mainland — as when Bush told Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao in December that he opposed Taiwanese moves toward formal independence — Taipei gets anxious. So Taiwan might very well spy on us to learn how far toward independence it could go without losing U.S. support and at what point it could expect help from Washington, should Beijing become aggressive.

If Israel is spying on the United States to learn our Iran policy, it too is most likely trying to resolve this kind of ambiguity.

Israel, whose greatest security concern is Iran's nuclear program, wants Washington to take a hard-line stance toward Tehran. Should internal debate within the administration tend toward dovish engagement, Israel might consider attacking Iran's nuclear facilities, as it did Iraq's in 1981.

Israel, of course, was behind the most famous friendly spying episode in recent memory. In 1986, Jonathan Pollard, a Navy civilian analyst, pleaded guilty to passing classified documents to the Israelis. The affair embarrassed Israel — and Pollard is in his 18th year of a life sentence — but as Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, then Israel's minister of industry and trade, explained unapologetically at the time: "Israel does not receive from the U.S. all the information it needs."

The American attitude is equally dispassionate. A former U.S. senior intelligence official put it to me this way: "If a policy-maker absolutely needs information that's essential to his job, and there's no other way you can get it, that's when a nation uses human intelligence" — regardless of the target. In the 1980s, the official said, we knew that German companies were provid-

ing rogue states such as Libya with technology that could be used to manufacture weapons of mass destruction. The German government, however, not convinced of the evidence, would not share all its intelligence with the United States.

Did we act on our own to get it? Most definitely.

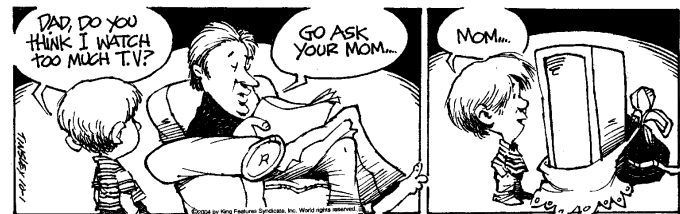
Though friendly spying is pervasive, the severity of the problem is less a function of frequency than of consequence. It matters less, for example, if France uncovers a trade secret than if al-Qaida learns our military plans in Afghanistan. But, in measuring the damage done, one can't write off the loss of secrets as unimportant simply because they were taken by a friend. Seymour Hersh of the New Yorker reported in 1999 that the Israelis passed much of the information they got from Pollard — possibly including U.S. nuclear war plans — to the Soviets.

It's an extreme case, but in espionage it's wise to remember that, although the enemy of my enemy may be my friend, the friend of my friend may also be my enemy.

J. Peter Scobill is the executive editor of the New Republic. This column first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



IN THE WORLD

Expert: Philippine terror camps active

By JIM GOMEZ

The Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — Top leaders of an al-Qaida-linked group accused in Asia's worst terror attacks once taught or were trained at secret Philippine camps — which are still active despite government claims they've been dismantled — a U.S. security analyst said Thursday.

The camps still produce would-be attackers, allowing Jemaah Islamiyah to survive arrests and crackdowns, said American terror expert Prof. Zachary Abuza, director of Asian Studies at Simmons College in Boston, Mass.

Most of the camps are in remote southern strongholds of the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front, which has repeatedly denied any Jemaah Islamiyah links and pledged to help authorities hunt down foreign terrorists, according to Abuza.

The Philippines government acknowledges that suspected foreign militants used to train in southern camps, but maintains that troops have dismantled them.

But the United States, Australia and other nations have been alarmed by reports of the camps' continuing presence in the largely undeveloped south, where the MILF and other Muslim groups have waged a decades-old independence fight.

"There, unfortunately, have been people who'd come out of these camps who have been involved in either attacks or in key leadership positions in the II organization," Abuza told Associated Press Television News.

Alleged trainers included Malaysian bomb expert and key Jemaah Islamiyah figure Azahari bin Husin — a main suspect in the Australian Embassy bombing that killed nine people in Indonesia in early September, Abuza said.

Abuza said Abu Djuna, believed to have replaced now-detained Abu Bakar Bashir as Jemaah Islamiyah's spiritual leader, has been in MILF camps.

Zulkarnain, a militant believed to be overseeing JI's military operations, also graduated from them, Abuza said.

A Philippine government report obtained

by The Associated Press says Filipino Muslim guerrillas have hosted terror training camps for Jemaah Islamiyah and militant groups from Indonesia and Malaysia for at least seven years.

The latest batch of 19 new Jemaah Islamiyah trainees finished last January, the report said.

After the government captured key MILF camps in 2000, the camps were shifted to smaller sites that were meant to handle only up to 20 recruits each but remained crucial to Jemaah Islamiyah's survival, Abuza said.

Despite the arrests of more than 300 members and leaders since 2000, the militant group has kept recruiting, training and plotting attacks.

The Australian Embassy bombing in Jakarta — a difficult target — indicates that security officials may have underestimated its ability to endure crackdowns.

"They weren't going after a mall or a nightclub. They went after a hardened target," Abuza said. "I think they really wanted to signal that they might be down, but they're not out."

Cell phones banned

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia — Saudi Arabia's highest religious authority has issued an edict banning the use of cell phones with built-in cameras, blaming them for "spreading obscenity" — a final resort after a ban on their use and internet to the kingdom failed to dent their popularity.

Camera cell phones have caught on fast throughout Asia, Europe and the Middle East, particularly in oil-rich Persian Gulf countries, prompting concerns about privacy in places where people undress, "theft" of reading materials at book stores and newstands, and corporate espionage by employees.

As a result, the devices have been banned by gyms, retailers and companies in many nations.

Mini Berlin wall planned

BERLIN — Fifteen years after the Berlin Wall fell, a museum in the German capital plans to rebuild a section of the concrete barrier close to the former Checkpoint Charlie border crossing.

The segment will be put up on either side of the former border post, probably in the next several weeks. Alexandra Hildebrandt, the director of the House at Checkpoint Charlie Museum, said Thursday.

Hildebrandt said the slabs were collected from various sites by her late husband, museum founder Rainer Hildebrandt, after the wall came down in 1989. She plans to leave them standing until the end of the year on land leased by the museum.

Leader visits Dublin

DUBLIN, Ireland — In another symbolic step toward Northern Ireland, the province's hard-line Protestant leader traveled Thursday for his first official visit in Dublin with Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern in Dublin.

The Rev. Ian Paisley, whose Democratic Unionist Party represents most of the north's British Protestant majority, is locked in negotiations designed to revive the key goal of Northern Ireland's 1998 peace accord: a joint Catholic-Protestant administration.

Paisley's trip to the capital of the Republic represents a near-total reversal of his lifetime hostility to political contacts with the south.

Sex abuse trials begin

PTITCAIRN ISLAND — A series of sex abuse trials opened on Pitcairn Island, the isolated British territory in the Pacific that is home to descendants of the 18th-century Bounty mutineers. The first alleged victim said she was raped as a young girl by the island's mayor.

The unprecedented trials of seven men — more than half the island's adult male population — on 55 charges began Wednesday in the island's community hall, which has been converted into courts staffed by judges and lawyers from New Zealand but operating under British law.

From The Associated Press

2 American volunteers attacked in West Bank

The Associated Press

HEBRON, West Bank — Two American volunteers in a group helping Palestinians were beaten with baseball bats and chains by five men, including one who spoke in English with an Israeli accent, one of the victims said Thursday.

The Americans, Chris Brown, 40, from San Francisco, and Kim Lamberty, 44, from Washington D.C., were escorting Palestinian children to their school in a West Bank village Wednesday when they were attacked, Brown said.

The two are members of the Christian Peacemakers Team, a group that has been active in and around the West Bank city of Hebron for several years.

Brown remained hospitalized in Israel on Thursday with a punctured lung. Lamberty was released after receiving treatment for a broken arm and swollen knee.

The identity of the assailant was not known, but Bourke Kennedy, another member of the group, said the volunteers have been harassed in the past by Jewish settlers on the same road, which runs near the Ma'arat settlement. "We've been spat at, hit, and almost run down on occasion," said Kennedy.

The group said it would file a complaint with the Israeli authorities. Israeli soldiers arrived at the scene half an hour after the attack. However, the army said police would have to handle to case. Police could not be reached for comment.



From left, EU Justice Commissioner Antonio Vitorino, U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft and Dutch Justice Minister Piet Hein Donner participate in Thursday's Informal JHA Council in Scheveningen, the Netherlands. Ashcroft and EU justice ministers agreed to improve the trans-Atlantic flow of intelligence information to help track down terrorists and prevent attacks.

EU, U.S. agree to exchange intelligence to fight terrorism

By ANTHONY DEUTSCH

The Associated Press

SCHIEVENINGEN, Netherlands — Attorney General John Ashcroft and EU justice officials agreed Thursday to improve the trans-Atlantic flow of intelligence to help track down terrorists and prevent attacks.

Among new measures agreed during several hours of meetings here was the exchange of liaison intelligence officers between the continents.

The United States will send an agent from the FBI to the European police agency Europol in The Hague, Netherlands, and the EU will post two agents in Washington, said Antonio Vitorino, the EU justice and home affairs commissioner.

The discussions came at the start of two days of talks between EU justice and internal affairs ministers in the Netherlands, which currently holds the EU presidency.

Later Thursday, France and the United States were to sign a bilateral agreement on the exchange of data between law enforcement agencies and the extradition of suspects.

Ashcroft said talks also addressed ways to speed up the transfer of sensitive information through Europol, now often hampered by diverging national systems and competition between Europe's security agencies.

On Wednesday, Ashcroft signed two bilateral accords to bring the U.S.-Dutch extradition treaty up to date and facilitate the transfer of terror suspects. The accords will also enable trans-Atlantic video conferencing so that authorities can interview suspects abroad.

The accords also set out guidelines for tracking suspect bank accounts, and enable investigators to travel abroad to conduct inquiries on foreign soil.

At an informal meeting earlier

this month, Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge stressed the need for greater information sharing between EU and U.S. intelligence services.

Meanwhile, European Union officials called on the United States to grant them another one-year extension to introduce biometric passports, saying the 25-nation bloc will miss the 2005 deadline to have the new documents ready.

Antonio Vitorino, the EU's justice and home affairs commissioner, told his U.S. counterpart Attorney General John Ashcroft the EU would ask the U.S. Congress for a new 2006 target date.

EU spokesman Pietro Petrucci said countries would have to include only one mandatory biometric feature — a digital face — in the new passports.

On Thursday, upgraded border controls went into effect in the United States, with the introduction of electronic fingerprint scans for all European travelers.

Marks still circulating

FRANKFURT, Germany — Nearly three years after the mark passed into history, Germany's central bank said Wednesday it is still doing a brisk business in exchanging the currency for crisp new euros.

The Bundesbank estimated that some 8.1 billion marks in bank notes were still in circulation at the end of August. Euro bills and coins were introduced in January 2002 in Germany and 11 other European Union countries.

The outgoing national currencies were withdrawn after a brief changeover period.

Gang shootout

DHAKA, Bangladesh — Police killed at least 10 suspected gang members Thursday in a shootout in southeastern Bangladesh, an official said.

Police raided a house early Thursday after receiving a tip that the suspects were preparing to engage in a criminal act, said police official Golam Mostafa.

Police opened fire on the suspects, who shot back with heavy weapons, he said, adding that arms and ammunition were later seized from the scene.

Pope, Musharraf meet

VATICAN CITY — Pope John Paul II met Thursday with Pakistani President Gen. Pervez Musharraf, encouraging him to press ahead with a "spirit of dialogue and tolerance" in his turbulent region.

Musharraf is in Italy this week for a state visit, discussing relations between Muslim countries and the West, and Pakistan's efforts to combat terrorism.

Japan death toll rises

TOKYO — The death toll from a tropical storm buffeting Japan rose Thursday to 19 after searchers found more victims, including two men buried inside their homes beneath mud and debris that had barreled down a mountainside.

Tropical storm Meari has cut a wide swath through Japan since Sunday, causing floods, triggering deadly landslides and forcing about 10,000 people to flee their homes for shelters. Eight people were missing and at least 80 others had been injured.

From The Associated Press



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Japanese nan protests with fiery car

The Associated Press

TOKYO — A right-wing extremist drove a burning car up to the gate of Japan's parliament Thursday to protest the government's failure to resolve a dispute over citizens abducted by North Korea decades ago, police said. No injuries were reported.

A Tokyo Metropolitan Police spokesman said authorities arrested the driver, identified as 54-year-old Mitsuyoshi Hasegawa.

He claimed to be the former chairman of a rightist group, the Japanese People's Union, said Akiruo Sakita, a police spokesman.

Hasegawa allegedly told police he was protesting the lack of progress in talks with North Korea over abductions of Japanese citizens by Northern agents in the 1970s and 1980s.

"I'm dissatisfied with the Japanese government's response to

the abduction issue," Sakita quoted Hasegawa as saying.

Authorities thought at first he had crashed the car, but later said he set it alight and then drove the burning car to the Parliament's south gate.

Three fire trucks rushed to the scene and the flames were quickly extinguished. A few hundred people gathered at the scene to watch as three helicopters circled overhead.

Sakita said Hasegawa set the fire with a plastic bag of gasoline and drove some 500 feet before stopping at the Parliament's south gate and abandoning the car.

Japan is negotiating with North Korea for more information on Japanese citizens kidnapped by the reclusive communist regime. In 2002, North Korea admitted kidnapping 13 Japanese and said eight of them had died. Pyongyang released five survivors.



Black smoke billows from a burning vehicle after a man reportedly claiming to be a former rightwing extremist set the car on fire Thursday at an entrance gate to Japan's lower house of Parliament. There were no reports of injuries. Police said authorities were holding the driver.



Rebuilding begins in Mud in Marsh Harbour, Haiti, after a storm devastated much of the Caribbean island.

Years of rebuilding ahead in Caribbean

BY STEVENSON JACOBS

The Associated Press

KINGSTON, Jamaica — Three major hurricanes in less than a

month have scarred islands across the Caribbean and left billions of dollars in destruction, a crippling toll that will likely mean years of rebuilding.

Though aid is streaming in, relief workers are stretched thin because of the vast scope of the disaster. That has hindered efforts to help tens of thousands recover from the some of the most devastating storms of their lifetimes.

Each day, hundreds of people in Grenada swarm workers who hand out sacks of rice and flour three weeks after a devastating hit from Hurricane Ivan, which killed 39 people and damaged or destroyed 90 percent of the island's homes.

September 2004 will likely go down as one of the most infamous months for hurricanes in Caribbean history: Three powerful storms — Frances, Ivan and Jeanne — tore through the region with an extraordinary ferocity not seen in many years.

The biggest need for workers is in Haiti, where the bulk of recovery efforts are focused following floods from Jeanne — then a tropical storm — which killed more than 1,500 people, leaving some 900 missing and 200,000 homeless.

"The aid is coming in, but we need more people on the ground to help," said Elizabeth Byers, of the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

Damages are still being assessed, but the toll in Grenada is expected to near \$7 billion, according to the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency. That's a gargantuan sum for an island with a \$500 million-a-year economy.

"It will be a long time before housing and infrastructure will be replaced," said Donovan Gentles, of the Barbados-based agency.

Some homes have set up temporary camps near neighbors' houses.

In Jamaica, the government has named a reconstruction committee following Ivan, which two weeks ago destroyed 8,000 homes and caused an estimated \$111 million in damage to livestock, sugar, coffee and other crops. At least 17 people died, out of at least 72 across the Caribbean.

The Cayman Islands saw unprecedented destruction from Ivan, which brought gusts of up to 200 mph and towering waves.

This week President Bush asked Congress for \$50 million for storm-hit Caribbean countries, with about half going to Haiti.

Political group rallies in India

Communists show strength before talks

The Associated Press

HYDERABAD, India — About 30,000 supporters of the communist People's War Group guerrillas, some waving red flags and banners, converged Thursday on the southern Indian city of Hyderabad for their first major public rally in India in 15 years.

Guerrilla leaders said the demonstration was a show of strength ahead of peace talks with the central government of Andhra Pradesh state, which in June lifted a ban on the group.

The guerrillas had held rallies in rural areas before, but were unable to stage such large demonstrations.

The rebels have been fighting for 23 years in several parts of India, but most of the conflicts have occurred in Andhra Pradesh, where 6,000 people have died. The state government banned them 13 years ago.

On Thursday, many marchers sang revolutionary songs and chanted against the state government and World Bank. Some carried pictures of young people killed in police actions against the rebels.

The rebels have targeted rich landowners, accusing them of exploiting landless farm workers. They also attack police and administrative officials, saying they collude with landowners to deny farm laborers their rights.

Thursday's rally was held at a Hyderabad soccer stadium.

N.Y. to raise bar

NY ALBANY — The bar will soon be a little higher on the New York state bar examination. The state Board of Law Examiners has approved increasing the minimum passing grade on the bar exam for prospective lawyers from 660 to 675 on a scale of 1,000. The scoring change will be done in three stages, to 665 beginning with the July 2005 exam, to 670 in July 2006 and to 675 in July 2007.

The current passing grade of 660 was set in 1979.

State to replace housing

VA DAWN — Sun-bleached trailers and dilapidated houses without indoor plumbing will soon be replaced with government-built homes under a \$1 million grant to rebuild and repair between 20 and 30 residences in this small Caroline County community. Though county officials are unsure exactly how many homes will be fixed, the grant money signals a victory after years of frustrating state denials. The money, awarded through the state Department of Housing and Community Development, was announced last week by Gov. Mark R. Warner.

Smoking out money

IA DES MOINES — The state is taking legal action against more than a dozen small cigarette manufacturers who are not making payments required under a 1998 settlement with tobacco companies.

In some cases, the state will not see much money from the lawsuits, but is obligated to pursue the small companies or face being sued by the nation's most powerful tobacco companies, who reached the settlement with Iowa and 45 other states.

Residents speak out

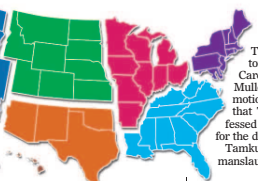
ID IDAHO FALLS — In response to hundreds of letters from citizens, the National Academy of Sciences will accept testimony in Idaho about the impact Cold War nuclear testing had on their health. About 150 residents submitted comments on the need to extend the federal government's compensation program to Idaho victims of radioactive fallout from atmospheric testing in Nevada in the 1950s and 1960s. The Academy's Board on Radiation Effects Research is writing a report that will recommend whether the government should expand a compensation program to those individuals.

Nude sunbather dies

CA SAN FRANCISCO — A man sunbathing nude on the terrace of a bar in the city's largely gay Castro District died after getting into a fight with a patron who complained.

Jay Carbone, 52, fell and hit his head during the scuffle at the Pendulum bar, police said.

According to police, Carbone ordered drinks and disrobed. After about an hour, another man complained and asked Carbone to put his clothes on. Police said Carbone



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

replied, "If you don't like it, get out."

No immediate charges were filed.

Son mistakenly killed

TX HOUSTON — A Houston man fatally shot his 18-year-old son after mistaking him for a burglar, police said.

Eli Johnson, 18, was shot inside his family's home.

Forrest E. Johnson, 49, told police he came home to find the front door partially open and became suspicious. He returned to his truck to get his handgun because he thought his home was being burglarized.

When Johnson tried to push open the front door, someone from the inside pulled the doorknob at the same time, police said.

Johnson told investigators he saw someone standing in front of him, so he fired a shot.

Eli Johnson was struck in the chest and died at Ben Taub General Hospital.

Police questioned the elder Johnson but did not take him into custody. Police will refer the case to a Harris County grand jury.

Senior charged in death

CT WILTON — An 88-year-old nursing home resident was charged with killing his roommate by hitting him with the footboard of a bed.



Playing in the rain

Brittany Logan and Sara Plochicky ride a motor scooter in the rain in Bristol, Conn.

John Tamkun was arraigned on charges he killed 82-year-old Thomas Mullen at Wilton Meadows Health Care Center. Police said Mullen was found lying motionless on the floor and that Tamkun quickly confessed he was responsible for the death.

Tamkun was being held on manslaughter charges.

Teen stabbed in back

MI BRUCE TOWNSHIP — A 16-year-old girl was stabbed in the back with an 8-inch kitchen knife as she walked in a hallway at her high school, and her ex-boyfriend was arrested nearby and charged with attempted murder, police said.

Nicole Lambert was recovering from the attack.

Her ex-boyfriend, Eric Schorling, 16, was charged with attempted murder, Macomb County Sheriff Mark Hackel said.

Lambert was standing near the library at Romeo High School when Schorling allegedly stabbed her in the back and fled.

The girl initially thought she had been punched until she walked to class and a teacher saw the knife in her back, Sgt. Bill Mangano said.

Schorling was arraigned on charges of attempted murder, assault with intent to murder and carrying a weapon in weapons-free school zone. He was jailed on a \$1 million bond pending a preliminary hearing. If convicted, he could face up to life in prison.

Bus driver suspended

KY LULYSESSE — In rural eastern Kentucky, where it's hardly unusual to find folks carrying shotguns in hunting season, the suspension of a school bus driver for giving one such hunter a ride has many parents asking: What's the big deal? Lawrence County School Superintendent Jeff May said he's been swamped with calls from people rallying in support of bus driver Kathy Laney even though she allowed a squirrel hunter on board with a 20-gauge shotgun.

May said that Laney, a bus driver for about six years, stopped on her route to school to give 67-year-old Ralph Musica a ride past some threatening dogs that were in the road.

Laney was apologetic for what she called a lapse in judgment.

Ambush photographer

OH COLUMBUS — An attorney was sentenced to a year and a half in jail for ambushing dozens of women while nude and taking pictures of their shocked expressions.

But Stephen Linnen, 34, won't lose his law license and will be allowed to leave jail to continue work as a law clerk.

He pleaded guilty to 53 misdemeanor counts of public indecency, sexual imposition and criminal trespassing.

Linnen, a former lawyer for the Ohio House Republican caucus, has admitted to photographing women while he was unclothed over nearly two years, gaining the name "the naked photographer." He apologized in court, but none of his victims were there.



That's mine!

Elijah Allen's dog Lucky leaps at the catch as Allen shows his parents what he pulled out the pond at Elver Park in Madison, Wis.



Education workout

Education Secretary Rod Paige joins fourth and fifth graders as he participates in Cathy Lowry's physical education class at North Ridge Elementary School in Raleigh, N.C.



Pimpin' my ride

Devon Dante Harris cruises in Bakersfield, Calif., on his homemade 4-wheel vehicle with a complete stereo system, including several speakers.



Record-breaking pillow fight Members of New Heights Church in Vancouver, Wa., swing pillows at each other in hopes of breaking the Guinness Book of World Records for the most people engaged in a pillow fight.



Recess fun Naihun Yates, left, and Abby Adams, 9, hang out with classmates on the monkey bars at Garfield Elementary School in Loveland, Colo.



Gloomy days

Tryston Perkowski, 4, of Millville, Pa., wearing a plastic rain parka and carrying an umbrella, looks down the rainy midway as he makes his way around the Bloomsburg Fair in Bloomsburg, Pa.



Blissful morning A bird is silhouetted against the morning sky as the full moon is illuminated above Lake Champlain, seen from Overlook Park in South Burlington, Vt.

Schools without nurses

MD BALTIMORE — Twenty of Baltimore's 39 high schools don't have a nurse this school year, a situation administrators blame on cuts in program to place health personnel in every school. The lack of nurses is one of the effects stemming from cuts in a \$10 million nursing program that is meant to place a nurse or health aide in every Baltimore school. The medical personnel are provided by the city's Health Department, and the program is funded by the schools and the city.

Sheep hunt lottery

HI VOLCANO — Hawaii Volcanoes National Park is looking for volunteers with rifles to help rid the park's new 116,000 acres of thousands of feral sheep.

The National Park Service recently acquired the land on the Big Island from Kahuku Ranch. With the land came thousands of mountain sheep, native to Corsica and Sardinia in the Mediterranean, that were brought to the ranch for hunting in the 1960s. Their population is multiplied over the years because they have no natural predators.

The park service will conduct a public lottery Nov. 8 to select participants in the hunt, officials said. The project will continue indefinitely and lotteries will be held every six months, officials said.

Center gets first apes

IA DES MOINES — Warning lights flashed atop four police cars as the caravan wound its way up the driveway in a procession fit for a foreign potentate.

At long last, Azy and Indah had arrived. They even flew through a hurricane to get here.

The brother and sister orangutans are the first two residents at the Great Ape Trust of Iowa, where scientists will study the behavior and learning capabilities of four types of great apes.

Azy, the male, and Indah ate fruit and drank lemonade during the 2½-hour flight. They also chewed gum to help their ears pop. The two had been living at the National Zoo, where Shumaker began working with them in 1995.

When finished, the center will have bonobos, chimpanzees and gorillas along with the orangutans.

Secret taping charge

TX AUSTIN — An Austin man has been accused of secretly videotaping nudists at the Hippie Hollow park near Austin.

Dale Alan Whitenhafer, 38, of Gilbert, Ariz., was arrested by Travis County park rangers for allegedly using a video camera that was hidden inside a collapsible ice chest, with holes to allow the taping.

Whitenhafer was arrested when somebody noticed him with the video camera.

He is charged with improper visual recording to arouse or gratify and is free on a \$7,500 bond.

Booze served at school

DC WASHINGTON — It was not the sort of letter a school delights in sending home to its families.

"Dear Third, Fourth, and Fifth Grade Parents: 'It is with great re-

gret that I tell you that your child may have been exposed to alcohol today at lunch," said the missive signed by Alexander Harvey IV, head of the private Alexandria Country Day School.

It was tequila and margarita mix, to be precise, left in the refrigerator in a pitcher and mistaken for limeade by kitchen staff, who poured it into small cups and served it to children as a lunch treat, he wrote.

An administrator who realized something was wrong started investigating. Harvey said and quickly discovered that the limeade was really liquor — although it is unclear why the kitchen staff didn't notice. It had been left over, he said, from a party two days earlier at the school for the staff, faculty and Board of Trustees.

Fire-threat closings

CA SANTA CLARITA — Officials closed thousands of acres in two of Southern California's four national forests, citing extreme fire danger as the drought-plagued region braces for fall's hot and dry winds.

Ninety percent of the Angeles National Forest was shut down, and about 20 percent of the Cleveland National Forest was closed to visitors.

Firestorms last October and November burned across more than 750,000 acres in the region — including parts of the Cleveland forest — destroying 3,650 homes and killing 24 people.

The Angeles forest to the north and east of Los Angeles covers about 680,000 acres, an area roughly the size of Rhode Island.

People who venture into closed areas of the national forests risk arrest and fines up to \$5,000.

Party investigation

MA AMHERST — Campus administrators are investigating reports of a drunken party in a student government office at the University of Massachusetts that included students posing with a caricature of the speaker of the student senate dressed as a member of the Ku Klux Klan. Pictures from the March 29 party were released by the student Office of African, Latino, Asian and Native American Affairs.

Students protest speaker

MS JACKSON — The NAACP, local officials and college students protested the possible appearance of reputed Ku Klux Klan figure Edward Ray Killen at next month's Mississippi State Fair.

In 1967, Killen was tried on federal conspiracy charges in the Klan's June 21, 1964, killings of three civil rights workers in Neshoba County. He was freed after a hung jury verdict and has never faced state charges.

Richard Barrett, who heads the white supremacist organization known as the National Movement, said Killen had agreed to make an appearance at the group's booth in the Agricultural Building.

More than 30 people, some carrying signs with slogans such as "Mississippi is still burning" and "1st Amendment is no excuse for abuse," protested at the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce.

Stories and photos from wire services

FACES

Shatner punks Iowa town

Riverside, Iowa, has been "punk'd" by William Shatner, aka "Star Trek's" Capt. James T. Kirk, and Spike TV. Riverside considers itself the "future birthplace" of Capt. Kirk, commander of the starship USS Enterprise in the '60s "Star Trek" series.

Shatner had been shooting scenes in Riverside for what he said was a low-budget, sci-fi movie titled, "Invasion Iowa."

On Tuesday night, he invited residents to view scenes that he'd been directing in and around town for a week.

Shatner thanked some 800 people who turned out for the gathering and then revealed the filming had been for a new reality show on Spike TV about a small town playing host to a Hollywood film shoot.

"Everything in front of and behind the cameras was faked," Shatner said. "The only thing that was real is the love we have for Riverside."

To soften the blow, Shatner announced that he and his co-producers were donating \$100,000 to the city to be used for community projects. The cast and crew also passed the hat and collected \$12,000 for the Riverside Elementary School Book Fund.

Punk-rock trio gets political

One of the biggest role models from the "I don't care" era has done a complete 180-degree turn.

Using their famous three-chord melodies, the spiky-haired trio Green Day have been lambasting President Bush.

"It was a little hipper to be apathetic [back then]," says singer-guitarist Billie Joe Armstrong. "Right now, it's more about facing danger. That's what growing up is all about."

However, their new album, "American Idiot," isn't all about politics. It was written with a narrative, making it a "punk opera" of sorts. The central character is a rebellious teen named Jesus of Suburbia.

"It's about a kid that is trying to find his beliefs and his essence, coming from a broken home, being fed up with his hometown and his local 7-11," said Armstrong, who still carries his eyes with black eyeliner.

'Barenaked' television

Fox Broadcasting Co. has ordered a pilot for a variety show starring the Barenaked Ladies that will feature the playful rock group performing music and comedy skits along with guest actors.

The Canadian band, known for writing upbeat songs with quirky lyrics and engaging their audiences with onstage banter, will have plenty of leeway to ad-lib on the show, tentatively titled, "The Barenaked Ladies Variety Show."

All of the band members — Steven Page, Jim Creegan, Ed Robertson, Kevin Hearn and Tyler Stewart — will perform.

Brooks to film in N.Y.

Mel Brooks will shoot the film version of his hit Broadway musical "The Producers" at a new movie studio in the Brooklyn Navy Yard.

Brooks, a Brooklyn native, said new financial incentives and his love of New York helped persuade him to shoot at the recently opened Steiner Studios.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Gov. George Pataki credited new state and local tax credit programs with attracting Brooks' film to New York.

Brooks had another reason. "The bagels, just the bagels alone," he said, "You go to Toronto, they don't have bagels."

"The Producers: The Movie Musical" will star Nathan Lane, Matthew Broderick, Nicole Kidman and Will Ferrell.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press



Shatner



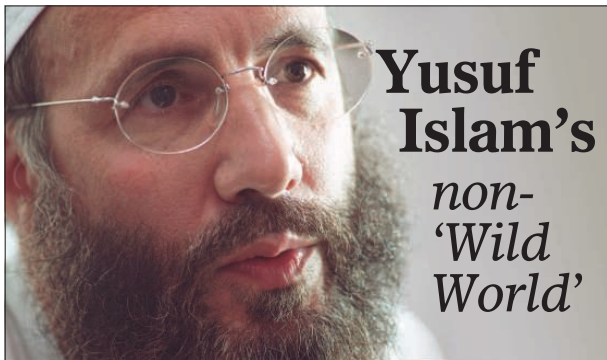
Armstrong



Page



Brooks



Yusuf Islam's non-'Wild World'

Cat Stevens seeks peace, purity of faith while dealing with Western suspicions

BY ANTHONY BREZNICAN

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — He hasn't been an entertainer for decades, but when the folk-rock singer once known as Cat Stevens has resurfaced over the years, it's usually in a way that stuns or confuses the fans who still love his old songs.

Last week brought another such incident: Stevens, who changed his name to Yusuf Islam when he became a Muslim in 1977, was detained after a flight to the United States because his name is on a government anti-threat watch list.

Although the one-time singer of "Peace Train," "Morning Has Broken" and "Wild World" abandoned his fame and converted to the religion to find a sense of tranquility, it has often brought him public scorn.

He previously angered many around the world by appearing equivocal in the 1980s about the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's death sentence against Salman Rushdie, author of "The Satanic Verses."

Some radio stations banned his music or symbolically destroyed his albums, but he later said his remarks were misunderstood and insisted he did not want to see Rushdie killed.

However surprising his life choices have been for fans, it was no surprise that Cat Stevens never wanted to be a star.

At the peak of his career, Stevens, a Briton who was born Stephen Georgiou, even wrote a song about his distaste for showbiz. It was plainly titled "I Never Wanted To Be a Star."

One verse went, "I never wanted to be a star/Buy my mom a Ferrari car/I only wanted To run my own race/So I could win a small place in your heart."

He decided to change his life after nearly drowning at a beach in Malibu in 1976. Shortly afterward, his brother returned from Jerusalem with an English translation of the Quran, the Muslim holy book. A year later, Stevens converted and changed his name.

He married in 1979 and formally renounced his singing career in 1981.

"It was not necessarily the music or the singing, but everything else that was corrupt: the drugs, sex, conceit, the unhealthy competition," Islam told The Associated Press in 1985.

He married a woman named Fozzia Ali and they had five children. He became a teacher and an advocate for his religion, founding a Muslim school for children in London

in 1983.

Islam has been active with numerous charities over the years, but has consistently declared he is not a militant.

Islam recently condemned the school seizure by militants in Beslan, Russia, that left more than 300 dead, nearly half of them children. In a statement on his Web site, he wrote, "Crimes against innocent bystanders taken hostage in any circumstance have no foundation whatsoever in the life of Islam and the model example of Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him."

Last year, he re-recorded his 1971 hit song "Peace Train" at studios in Johannesburg, South Africa, to raise money for children affected by the U.S.-led war in Iraq. Other contributors include Paul McCartney, David Bowie and George Michael.

Amid the NATO bombing of Serbia in 1999, he was part of a group that tried to deliver \$33,000 directly to Kosovo refugees, but border guards stopped them and confiscated the money. He later said he delivered hundreds of thousands of dollars to Kosovo war orphans.

Just what he did to make the warning list remained unclear. A government official said Wednesday that authorities had received information he may have had associations with potential terrorists.

He was not accused of being a terrorist himself, however, and was set to be deported on the next available flight out of the United States.

Islam's brother and business manager, David Golan, said the terrorist connection was false. "His only work, his only mind-set, is humanitarian causes. He just wants to be an ambassador for peace."

The former pop star has found a kind of mature acceptance of his musical past, and has tried to use his Cat Stevens shadow to draw attention to his devotional records, such as the children's religious guide "A Is for Allah."

Cat Stevens songs remain popular to this day. His recordings turned up on soundtracks for movies such as "Rushmore" and "Almost Famous," while the songs are frequently covered by contemporary artists. Sheryl Crow has a current radio hit with his "The First Cut Is the Deepest," and The Mavericks did a country-western version of "Here Comes My Baby."

Although he has said he considers his old love songs impure, Islam has also acknowledged, in lighter moments, that he still enjoys listening to some of his old music and has not tried to withhold the music from the public.

"The records are still spinning," he told the AP in 1995, "if you want to listen to them."



Yusuf Islam, center, formerly known as Cat Stevens, arrives at London's Heathrow airport after being refused entry to America last week. U.S. officials, who had ordered Islam taken off a London-to-Washington flight, said his name was on a security watch list.

AP

Horoscope

The solid Taurus moon highlights the amorous side of Libra's solar energy. Romantic partnerships have been focused on the friendship aspect, which is one of the most important elements. But there is much to experience in the world, in a little indulgent, and plan activities that will delight the senses.

Joyce Jillson



TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(October 1). If your body's telling you to lie low and hibernate this season, don't ignore it. Use this time to reflect, rest up and take stock of all you've accomplished in the past year and all you plan to do come spring. That's when you'll be at your most productive, blazing a trail that will last all summer long. Lucky love signs are Scorpio and Leo.

ARIES (March 21-April 19).

Your sign is known for getting bored too easily and not finishing what it starts. To beat this bad rap, identify your inner longings, and then, strike while the iron is hot and you're still interested. Set realistic goals.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20).

When faced with an untenable situation, contemplate where it began and where it might lead if it continues on its present course. The answer lies somewhere in between. Consult a Sagittarius for a different perspective.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21).

Pay careful attention to what people say in passing, particularly siblings and neighbors. A useful piece of information slips out. These habits of knowledge provide an opportunity for you to gain more insight into a troubling situation.

CANCER (June 22-July 22).

The strength of your success lies in your innate ability to adapt to any situation. Unfortunately, your tendency to become overly emotional often hinders your ability to see what's going on. Try to keep your cool.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). With every action you take, you set into motion a chain of reactions that affects everyone around you. This can

either work for you or against you. Kindness comes back to you when you least expect it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).

You manage to accomplish every last thing and still look great doing it. It only if you could bottle that laser-beam focus. The boss rewards your empty "in" basket by piling on more work than you think you can handle.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).

Feeling a little of the killer? It might be something as simple as eating smarter, more nutritious meals. Also, it's important for you to feel safe in your immediate surroundings, so make home security adjustments you feel are necessary.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).

You seem to thrive on conflict and have mastered the art of turning crises into opportunities. Beware of gossipmongers at the office. Just keep a low profile, and do your job, and you'll probably stay out of the line of fire.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).

Too much is never enough. If ever you had a life motto, that would be it. But take care not to clutter up your life with endless details. Getting mired in minutiae will only distract you from the real work at hand.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).

Make sure that you do something significant to your goals each and every day. With your ambition and drive, that shouldn't be a problem. The real challenge will be finding the time for fun and romance while you're at it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).

Get out of your own way when events start to take on a perfect momentum. This means don't sabotage yourself by overthinking the situation. It's useless to direct what's happening or interfere with it in any way.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).

Things are looking up for you. Celebrate your successes, no matter how small. Better yet, make a list of today's top five accomplishments. You'll probably be surprised at how many more there actually were.

Creators Syndicate

Peanuts



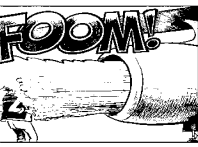
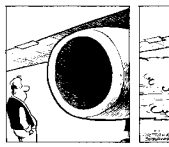
Calvin and Hobbes



Jump Start



Zits



Cathy



Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



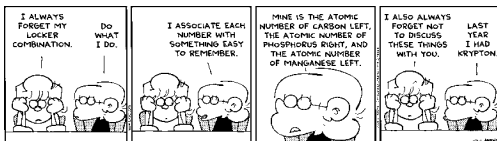
Red and Rover



Better or Worse



Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



Spider Man



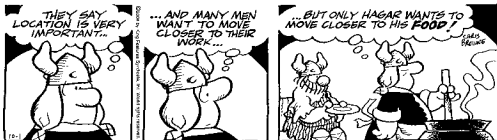
Blondie



Dilbert



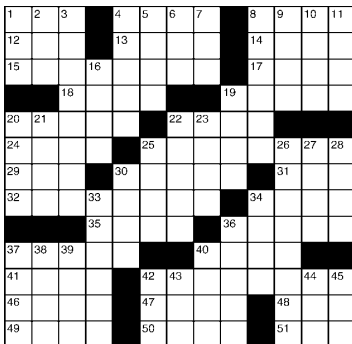
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



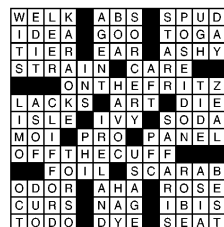
Across

- 1 Disconcert
- 4 "Animal House" group
- 8 Skateboarder's protection
- 12 Lameux milleu
- 13 Ford or Lincoln
- 14 Bread spread
- 15 Interim
- 17 Showgirl "At the Copa"
- 18 Slender
- 19 Insomniac's wish
- 20 Bottom line
- 22 Like the White Rabbit
- 24 Eastern potentate (Var.)
- 25 Porches
- 29 "God bless us, every one," said he
- 30 Malicious
- 31 Bullring bravo
- 32 Furtive
- 34 Broadway's Verdon
- 35 Come in last
- 36 Treated to Chianti
- 37 Provide a counterexample
- 40 Going like the wind
- 41 Injury
- 42 Recess, perhaps
- 46 Ms. Brockovich
- 47 Check
- 48 Frenzied
- 49 Con
- 50 Shrek, for one

Down

- 1 Spaced-out "Taxi" character
- 2 Blackjack component
- 3 When something actually happens
- 4 Deadly
- 5 Devastation
- 6 Bread machine?
- 7 Prouette pivot
- 8 Hay fever cause
- 9 Soothing agent
- 10 Take out of context?
- 11 Daytime TV fare
- 16 Approach
- 19 Command to
- 20 Rover
- 24 Make lace
- 21 Skip over
- 22 River of forgetfulness
- 23 Bohemian
- 25 Cisterns
- 26 Period of inactivity
- 27 Sheltered
- 28 Fax
- 30 What a stent will prevent
- 33 Reunion group
- 34 Heart of the matter
- 36 The Duke
- 37 Comical Caroline
- 38 Deserve
- 39 Londoner, e.g.
- 40 Equitable
- 42 Paid player
- 43 Journey segment
- 44 Bloke
- 45 Sullivan and McMahon

Answer to Previous Puzzle



10-1

CRYPTOQUIP

S NLXXENK M NEEWUSIF
NMYZK MXXYSKP WE KZK'N
CMWK CSFUW DK PLDDKP

"WUK MPMC DMYC."
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF SOMEONE REALLY CAN'T WAIT FOR A FLOWER TO BLOOM, COULD YOU SAY HE'S BUDTHIRSTY?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals M

Smoke alarms are high priority

Dear Abby: Smoke from a fire is sneaky, a silent killer. If a home fire breaks out while we are sleeping, we will not hear smoke as it creeps into our bedrooms, banking up the walls, curling across the ceiling. We will snuggle deeper into the blankets, unaware of the poisons enveloping us. It will grow and spread, becoming hotter and hotter until it reaches our beds. Then our lungs will be filled with scorching poisonous gases silently extinguishing our lives.

That harsh scenario is what happens in home fires in America every single day. According to the Home Safety Council's State of Home Safety in America Report, fire and burns are a leading cause of home injury-related death. To prevent this from happening, we need working smoke alarms.

Dear Abby



The majority of fire deaths occur at home, where we can make simple changes that can help us to stay safer.

When it comes to our personal safety and the safety of loved ones, we must hope for the best but prepare for the worst. A safe home is within our hands.

— Meri-K. Appy, president, Home Safety Council

Dear Meri-K: Thank you for the reminder. My experts have stressed to me that every home must have WORKING smoke alarms installed on each level of the house. Additional smoke detectors should be placed inside rooms where people sleep.

Dear Abby: I threw a party at my house and invited my usual friends. "Dave" arrived wearing a pair of sunglasses, even though my party was at night. He perched the glasses over the bill

on his baseball cap and left them there all evening.

The party was a barbecue outside in my back yard, and my 8-month-old Doberman, "Rommel," was running around. At some point, Dave's glasses fell off and Rommel used them for a toy. I had no idea what had happened until the next day, when Dave called and asked me to look for them.

When Dave found out my dog had ruined the glasses, he demanded that I pay for them to the tune of \$350! I don't think I owe him any money. Am I wrong?

— Dog Lover in Las Vegas

Dear Dog Lover: No, you are not wrong. The sunglasses were Dave's property, and he should have made sure they were protected. As his host, you had enough responsibilities on your shoulders during the evening. Dave shouldn't blame others for his carelessness.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 6940, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to <http://www.uepress.com/dearabby> Universal Press Syndicate

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LAWRD

TEABA

BUSTIM

KELNER

www.jumble.com

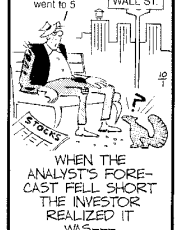
Answer: A

Jumbles: BOOTY NIECE PARODY VACUUM

Answer: What he realized when she declined the kiss at midnight — THE "DATE" WAS OVER

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argiron



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Mixed reviews on GI's judgment

Dear Annie: I read the letter from "Fired Up Army Wife," whose husband allowed a drunken female soldier to sleep it off in the hotel room that he shared with another male soldier.

Annie's Mailbox



Dear Lincoln: We agree he should have placed the soldier in a cab, but we also understand why he did not. And the suggestion of counseling is not because the wife has a problem, but to repair the damage to the relationship. Our mail was split on this subject, with most wives agreeing with you.

Here's more:

From Ohio: My husband is a Marine. Those in the military do need to be able to rely on one another, so why did he let her get so intoxicated in the first place? Don't let a soldier's "bond" warp your judgment, Annie.

Southwest: I am an active-duty soldier in the Army as well as an Army wife. If this woman was in a condition where she could not care for herself (which is what it sounds like), it is most appropriate to place her

where she can be protected. Taking her back to his hotel room, where his buddy also was sleeping, was probably the best route.

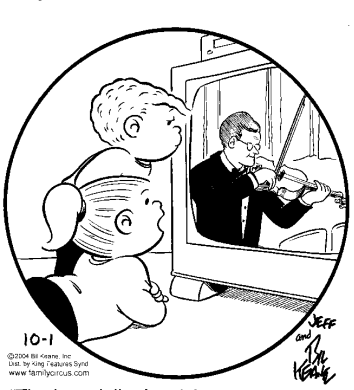
If he had dropped her off in a cab or left her in her hotel room, she could have become sick, not been able to clear her own airway and suffocated. Or, someone may have noticed her condition and broken into her room. This husband simply wanted to take care of a fellow soldier in an environment that was safe for everyone.

Okinawa: My husband has been in the Army 15 years, and he would never let a female sleep it off in his room. Conduct like this can become a black mark on his integrity — or worse, his record.

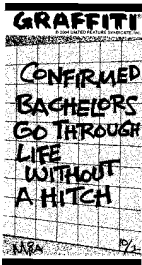
Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to annie@mailbox.comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

Creators Syndicate

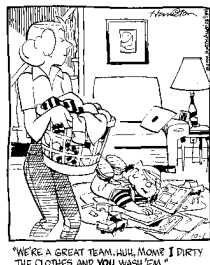
Family Circus



"That's a violin. Its nickname is 'Fiddle.'"

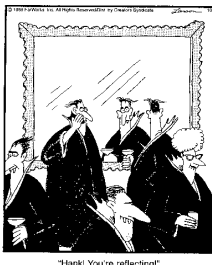


Demis the Menace



© Gary Larson

The Far Side



Non Sequitur



TO BE CONTINUED

Major League Baseball scoreboard

American League

	East Division	West Division
x-New York	95	61
x-Baltimore	61	62
Tampa Bay	62	44
Toronto	44	33

	Central Division
x-Minnesota	80
Cleveland	79
Chicago	78
Kansas City	61

	West Division
Anaheim	60
Los Angeles	59
Texas	56
Seattle	32

	Wednesday's games
Chicago White Sox 1, 2nd game	1
Baltimore 7, 1st game	1
N.Y. Yankees 5, Minnesota 3, 1st game	1
N.Y. Yankees 5, Toronto 2, 2nd game	1
Tampa Bay 9, Boston 4	1

	Thursday's games
Detroit at Tampa Bay, DH	1
Anaheim at Texas	1
Chicago White Sox at Kansas City	1
Toronto at Baltimore	1

	Friday's games
N.Y. Yankees (Hendricks 5-1) at Toronto (Baz 4-4)	1
Tampa Bay (Lyle 7-0) at Detroit (Marlowe 3-0)	1
Boston (Wakefield 11-0) at Baltimore (Ludlow 14-8)	1
Cleveland (Barton 31-1) at Minnesota (Mullholland 5-0)	1
Chicago White Sox (Garland 11-31) at Kansas City (Baustista 0-0)	1
Seattle (Hendrix 14-0) at Anaheim (Baek 2-4)	1
Anaheim (Conlon 17-22) at Oakland (Muller 17-9)	1

	Saturday's games
Cleveland at Minnesota	1
Boston at Baltimore, DH	1
Anaheim at Oakland	1
Tampa Bay at Detroit	1
Chicago White Sox at Kansas City	1
Texas at Seattle	1

	Sunday's games
Angels 8, Rangers 7 (11)	1

	Monday's games
Angels 8, Rangers 7 (11)	1

	Tuesday's games
Angels 8, Rangers 7 (11)	1

	Wednesday's games
Angels 8, Rangers 7 (11)	1

	Thursday's games
Angels 8, Rangers 7 (11)	1

	Friday's games
Angels 8, Rangers 7 (11)	1

	Saturday's games
Angels 8, Rangers 7 (11)	1

	Sunday's games
Angels 8, Rangers 7 (11)	1

	Monday's games
Angels 8, Rangers 7 (11)	1

	Tuesday's games
Angels 8, Rangers 7 (11)	1

	Wednesday's games
Angels 8, Rangers 7 (11)	1

	Thursday's games
Angels 8, Rangers 7 (11)	1

	Friday's games
Angels 8, Rangers 7 (11)	1

	Saturday's games
Angels 8, Rangers 7 (11)	1

	Sunday's games
Angels 8, Rangers 7 (11)	1

Yankees 5, Twins 4

	Minnesota	New York
LF	5.0	5.0
CF	5.0	5.0
RF	5.0	5.0
1B	5.0	5.0
2B	5.0	5.0
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RF	5.0	5.0
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3B	5.0	5.0
SS	5.0	5.0
OF	5.0	5.0
P	5.0	5.0

White Sox 11, Tigers 2

	Chicago	Detroit
LF	5.0	5.0
CF	5.0	5.0
RF	5.0	5.0
1B	5.0	5.0
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3B	5.0	5.0
SS	5.0	5.0
OF	5.0	5.0
P	5.0	5.0

	Chicago	Detroit
LF	5.0	5.0
CF	5.0	5.0
RF	5.0	5.0
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P	5.0	5.0

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LF	5.0	5.0
CF	5.0	5.0
RF	5.0	5.0
1B	5.0	5.0
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RF	5.0	5.0
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3B	5.0	5.0
SS	5.0	5.0
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P	5.0	5.0

	Chicago	Detroit
LF	5.0	5.0
CF	5.0	5.0
RF	5.0	5.0
1B	5.0	5.0
2B	5.0	5.0
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CF	5.0	5.0
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LF	5.0	5.0
CF	5.0	5.0
RF	5.0	5.0
1B	5.0	5.0
2B	5.0	5.0
3B	5.0	5.0
SS	5.0	5.0
OF	5.0	5.0
P	5.0	5.0

	Chicago	Detroit
LF	5.0	5.0
CF	5.0	5.0
RF	5.0	5.0
1B	5.0	5.0
2B	5.0	

Cleveland's Denney hit by bullet in K.C.

The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Cleveland Indians pitcher Kyle Denney was shot in the right calf when a bullet pierced the team's bus and grazed another player late Wednesday night.

Team trainers were able to remove the bullet from Denney's calf. He was expected to spend the night in the hospital but was not seriously hurt, perhaps thanks to high white cheerleading boots he was wearing as part of a hazing ritual, club spokesman Bart Swain said.

The rest of the team was unharmed. The shooting occurred as the team rode to Kansas City International Airport after a game with the Kansas City Royals.

Swain said the shot was fired into the side of one of the Indians' two buses while it was on a ramp between Interstate 435 and I-70, grazing outfielder Ryan Ludwick.

"It went through his pants and then hit Denney," Swain said. "At first, there was a little bit of

panic. Once we realized Kyle was OK, fears were subsided."

As part of a rookie hazing ritual, Denney was wearing a USC cheerleader's outfit, including the high white boots, on the trip to the airport.

"Our trainers said the boots may have saved Kyle from further injury," Swain said.

Police said Thursday that a possible suspect was identified but wasn't yet in custody.

The Indians arrived safely at the airport and boarded a plane bound for Minneapolis.

Denney, who started Wednesday's 5-2 victory, was expected to rejoin the Indians on Thursday in Minnesota, where Cleveland begins its final series of the season Friday.

Since being called up Sept. 14 from Buffalo of the International League, Denney, 27, is 1-2 with a 9.56 ERA in four starts. He beat Kansas City 8-3 on Sept. 19 for his first major league victory.

Trial on ownership of Bonds' 700th homer ball delayed

SAN FRANCISCO — A judge delayed until Friday a hearing on who is the rightful owner of Barry Bonds' 700th home run ball, giving lawyers on both sides time to make their cases.

Steve Williams, who ended up with the ball during a melee in the left-center field bleachers on Sept. 17, promised San Francisco County Superior Court Judge Ronald Quideachay that he would not sell the ball before Quideachay rules on ownership. The president of a Chicago-based auction company estimated the ball's value as "six figures."

Haltting the sale of the ball allows a lawsuit brought by Timothy Murphy, who claims Williams



Cleveland pitcher Kyle Denney and catcher Troy Martinez chat during Wednesday night's game against the Kansas City Royals.

stole the ball from him, to proceed. If the judge ultimately declines to block the ball from being auctioned, Williams likely would be able to sell it immediately and the case would be over.

The case took another twist on Thursday when, minutes before the hearing, another man, Alex Patino, said that he was the rightful owner of the ball and is also planning on suing Williams.

"I just rolled on it and trapped it," he said, adding that Murphy "muffed" the catch.

His lawyer, Nikita Scope, said Patino is the rightful owner of the ball and the same claim Murphy is making.

"He sat on it and had possession," Scope said of Patino. Murphy sued Williams on Tuesday, claiming he pinned the ball underneath his leg during a scum after the baseball struck Murphy's chin. Murphy claims he is the ball's owner because Williams stole it from him while he was in a pile of fans.

We are confident that once evidence is presented in court in the form of both witnesses and videotape, it will be clear that Mr. Murphy had lawful possession of the ball and is the rightful owner," Williams' lawyer, Joseph Scanlan Jr., said.

Williams' lawyer, Daniel Horowitz, said the suit was "frivolous" and an attempt "to extract money even when it is not justified."

Diamondbacks add Fassero

PHOENIX — The Arizona Diamondbacks signed left-hander Jeff Fassero on Wednesday with four years left in the season.

The Colorado Rockies released Fassero, 42, on Friday.

Fassero had a 3-5 record and 6.29 ERA in 12 starts with the Rockies. He also worked 28 games in relief, going 0-3 with a 4.25 ERA.

He has a 116-116 record with 25 saves and a 4.09 ERA in 661 career games, including 235 starts, with Montreal, Seattle, Texas, Houston, Boston, the Chicago Cubs, St. Louis and Colorado.

His last appearance was on Sept. 13, when he pitched two innings of relief against Arizona.

Angels take first on Glaus' homer

A's tumble to second in AL West; Yanks near title after Twin wins

The Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — Troy Glaus fouled off pitch after pitch, waiting for Francisco Cordero to make a mistake. On the 10th pitch of the at-bat, he got one.

Glaus hit a hanging slider for a two-run home Wednesday night, helping the Anaheim Angels beat the Texas Rangers 8-7 in 11 innings and move into sole possession of first place in the AL West.

"I don't think you'll see a much better at-bat," Angels manager Mike Scioscia said. "There was a battle on the mound and a battle at the plate. He made a mistake and Troy didn't miss it."

Anaheim had moved back into first place for the first time since June 1.

The Rangers slipped to second in a three-game series in Texas. The tie with Oakland was broken when the Athletics lost 4-2 to Seattle later Wednesday. The Rangers were eliminated from playoff contention with the loss.

"The Rangers spent most of July in first place and were a surprise contender after four straight last-place finishes when they averaged 90 losses a season."

"Tonight was kind of a microcosm of the season," said base-man Mark Teixeira said. "We were up, we were down, and in the end, we just couldn't pull it out. I guess you can look at our whole season that way. We had a good season, just couldn't pull it out in the end."

Curtis Pride's RBI double in the ninth off Cordero (3-4) tied it 6-6. It was the fifth blown save for Cordero, who has a team-record 48 saves this season.

In the 11th, Darin Erstad reached on a one-out single ahead of Glaus' 18th homer, the first allowed by Cordero in 66 games this season.

"I was just trying to get on base for the big guys behind me," Glaus said.

Scott Shields (8-2) pitched two shutout innings and Troy Percival gave up a run in the 11th for his 32nd save in 37 chances.

Marlins 4, Athletics 2: Ichiro Suzuki went 1-for-3 to move within two hits of George Sisler's 84-year-old major league record and visiting Seattle knocked Oakland out of first place in the AL West for the first time since Aug. 5. Suzuki's fifth-inning single gave him 255 hits.

Bobby Madritsch (6-3) pitched a three-hitter for his first career complete game. Rich Harden (1-1) was the loser.

Oakland has lost seven of nine and is 11-16 this month. The Angels and A's play three games in Oakland this weekend to finish the season.

"Any way you see the scenario, we have to win three of the next



Ichiro Suzuki's single in the fifth inning on Wednesday night was his 255th hit of the season.

four no matter what," center fielder Mark Kotsay said. "I hope we can do the job tomorrow and make things interesting for the weekend. We know where we're at."

Yankees 5-5, Twins 3-4: Derek Jeter and Alex Rodriguez rallied the Yankees to a victory over the AL Central champions in the opener. Jon Lieber (14-8) then picked up his fifth consecutive victory in the second game behind Hideki Matsui's second homer of the day and 30th of the season.

Mariano Rivera saved both games, increasing his total to a career-high 53.

New York, closing in on three straight 100-victory seasons for the first time in team history, will clinch the division with one more win or one Red Sox loss.

Devil Rays 9, Red Sox 4: Host Tampa Bay virtually ended Boston's slim chance of winning the AL East, beating Pedro Martinez (16-9), who has lost four straight in a season for the first time.

Orioles 7-4, Blue Jays 6-0: Rick Bauer (2-1), making his first start since 2002, pitched six innings of three-hit ball to help the Orioles complete a doubleheader sweep of Toronto.

In the opener, Rafael Palmeiro hit two homers and Miguel Tejada broke Palmeiro's club record for RBIs in a season with his 143rd. David Newhan singled in the winning run in the ninth.

White Sox 11, Tigers 2: Carlos Lee hit a grand slam and a two-run homer and Freddy Garcia (13-11) pitched seven scoreless innings for visiting Chicago.

Indians 5, Royals 2: The host Royals lost their club-record 101st game as Ben Broussard homered and Cliff Bartosh (1-0) earned his first major league win.

Play the
NFL
Challenge

WIN CASH!

Mondays in Stars and Stripes
and on Oconocum.



The Ibis Tek Ram Bumper attached to the front of the vehicle enables the IHMMV to easily push objects in its path without any damage being done to the front end. Without the Ram Bumper existing vehicle parts are easily damaged sometimes destroying the critical cooling components of the vehicle. With the Ram Bumper attached to the vehicle the IHMMV can easily "push" it's way through barriers or other vehicles making it put in front of the IHMMV.

The Ram Bumper attaches in a matter of minutes without any special tools and provides the protection you require for your mission. Cutout in front provides mounting for the front winch if desired.

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Secondary woes to list for Pack

The Associated Press

GREEN BAY, Wis. — A fight between teammates, incessant trade talks about Mike McKenzie, Brett Favre's bum shoulder, a desolated defense.

These are trying times in Green Bay, where the Packers are trying to avoid going 1-3 for the first time since 1993 and avoid their first three-game losing streak in Mike Sherman's five seasons as coach.

He's also encircled by questions about McKenzie, his recalcitrant cornerback who wants out of Green Bay, and about a fight between his top two draft picks.

NFL briefs

The Green Bay Press-Gazette reports the fracas between cornerbacks Ahmad Carroll and Joey Thomas, which occurred after a defensive backs meeting at Lambeau Field last week, in Tuesday's edition.

Sherman called it a family squabble, nothing more.

"You come home with me tonight. You want to see some fighting going on, you should see my kids," Sherman said. "Five kids in the house. Or take them on vacation in the car. You'll see some fighting. That doesn't mean they don't love each other. Just the way it is. That's football. That's life."

Neither Carroll, the team's top pick in the draft, nor Thomas, a third-rounder, played in the Packers' loss at Indianapolis on Sunday. Carroll stayed home with a pulled groin, and Thomas never lined up from scrimmage despite injuries to McKenzie, Carroll and Michael Hawthorne, who was replaced by rookie free agent Jason Horton when he sustained a concussion during the game.

The Packers said the fight had nothing to do with the decision not to play Thomas nor to leave Carroll in Green Bay.

The two players, who room together on the road, wouldn't reveal what sparked the argument.

"It was family business. We're just going to keep it within the family," Thomas said. "It happens between brothers and sisters. You're not always going to agree but you always love each other the next day." "We shook hands. It happened almost two weeks ago. We moved past it."

Pathners rule Davis out

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Carolina running back Stephen Davis will not play Sunday against the Atlanta Falcons because of a knee injury.

DeShaun Foster, who ran for 174 yards and a touchdown filling in for Davis two weeks ago, will start instead.

Davis had arthroscopic surgery on his knee Sept. 17 and missed Carolina's win over Kansas City. He was supposed to miss anywhere from two to five weeks, but

NFL injury update

Injuries to prominent NFL players, followed by team's prognosis. (See Scoreboard on Page 24 for complete injury report provided by the league.)

Browns: OT Ryan Tucker (strained quadriceps) and DL Gerard Warren (strained chest muscle) out Sunday's game.

Cowboys: CB Pete Munter (torn knee ligament) out for season; TE Don Campbell (foot) out for season.

said he hoped to be back for the Falcons game. The Panthers were off last weekend.

"It's disappointing, but I want to be smart about when I go back in," Davis said. "DeShaun's doing a great job, going in there and making plays. We've got guys that can go in there and get it done."

Just have to get myself better and get myself ready."

Davis said he had not ruled out returning next week to play against the Denver Broncos.

Patriots put TE Watson on IR

FOXBORO, Mass. — Ben Watson's rookie year with the New England Patriots started late and ended early.

The tight end was placed on injured reserve Wednesday with a knee injury.

Watson, who signed Aug. 16 after an 18-day holdout, and Kellen Winslow Jr. were the only tight ends drafted in the first round this year. Both now are out for the entire season.

To replace Watson, the Patriots signed tight end Jed Wersch, who is coming off the best of his six NFL seasons, when he caught 35 passes for 437 yards and started 15 games in his only year with San Francisco. In his career, he's played 80 games with 80 catches for 997 yards and six touchdowns.

Chambers questionable, Bowers out for Dolphins

DAVIE, Fla. — Miami Dolphins defensive tackle Tim Bowers, who has yet to play this season, will miss Sunday's game against the New York Jets with a herniated disc in his back.

Receiver Chris Chambers didn't practice Wednesday and was listed as questionable with a previously undisclosed knee injury.

With running back Lamar Gordon out for the season, the Dolphins signed free-agent running back Brock Forey. Last year he was a sixth-round draft choice by the Chicago Bears and rushed for 191 yards in 50 carries.

Rivers hurts finger in practice

SAN DIEGO — San Diego Chargers backup quarterback Philip Rivers hit the index finger of his throwing hand on a helmet midway through Wednesday's practice and sat out the rest of the session.

Neither Rivers nor coach Marty Schottenheimer thought the injury was serious.

"I'm fine, it's nothing," Rivers said. "They just wanted to make sure it didn't start swelling up."



Kerry Collins stepped in for injured Rich Gannon as the Raiders' QB last week and Oakland didn't miss a beat. AP

Collins now must make good on promise to be ready to play

BY JANIE MCCAULEY

The Associated Press

ALAMEDA, Calif. — Part of Kerry Collins' travels through sobriety require him to share his story.

It came up again Wednesday, on his first official day as starting quarterback of the Oakland Raiders. Collins credits the experience of getting clean to helping him handle being a backup for the first time in his career.

He hasn't had a drink in five years.

The 31-year-old Collins will start for the Raiders (2-1) at Houston on Sunday in place of Rich Gannon, the 2002 NFL MVP sidelined for at least eight weeks with a broken vertebra in his neck.

Gannon, 38, has returned home to Minnesota for about a week to be with his wife and family. The Raiders might decide later this week whether to place Gannon on injured reserve for the second straight season, coach Norv Turner said after practice Wednesday.

Gannon missed the final nine games last season and underwent shoulder surgery in November.

The Raiders are confident in Collins.

"We're ready for him to step in and do what he's capable of doing and make plays for this team," receiver Alvis Whitted said. "He's an excellent quarterback."

Collins, a 10-year veteran who led the Giants to the 2001 Super Bowl, was released by New York four days after it acquired No. 1 draft pick Eli Manning from the San Diego Chargers on draft day.

Collins joined the Raiders in May to be the No. 2 quarterback and had a great preseason.

He has handled his situation admirably since the beginning, promising to be ready when needed but insisting Gannon was the guy.

"I think more than anything I enjoy the game so much more now," Collins said. "I don't take it nearly as seriously as I did when I was younger. I really felt like it was stress and death winning or losing a football game. That can be hard to handle sometimes, because there are so many highs and lows in this game. If you can't handle that and have a lot of perspective on it, it's going to take you problems."

Collins entered late in the first quarter of Oakland's 30-20 win over Tampa Bay last week after Gannon was knocked out of the game by a helmet-to-helmet hit by Derrick Brooks. Collins led four scoring drives, completing 16 of 27 passes for 228 yards and one touchdown, a 19-yard strike to Ronald Curry just before halftime.

"I think Kerry's the perfect fit for the offense there," said Texans coach Dom Capers, the coach at Carolina from 1995-98 during Collins' rocky years with the Panthers. "He's got a strong arm. He can throw the ball down the field. He makes good decisions."

"It's unfortunate that Rich Gannon got hurt, but that's one of the great things when you have a guy backing up like Kerry Collins. He stepped in and they really didn't miss a beat."

The 6-foot-5, 245-pound Collins was the first draft pick ever by the Panthers in 1995 out of Penn State and led them to the NFC championship game in their second season.

But alcohol problems ended his career in Carolina two years later, and after a brief stop in New Orleans and eight weeks in rehab, he joined the Giants in 1999 — and rehabilitated his life and career. The next season, Collins led them to the NFC champi-

onship before losing to Baltimore in the Super Bowl.

"I was with Kerry for his first 3½ years, and then I watched him grow a lot when he was with the Giants," Capers said. "I'm sure he's excited about the new start here in Oakland. He sure played well the other night."

Collins, whose most productive year came in 2002 when he threw for 4,073 yards, opened up publicly that Monday before the Super Bowl and told the world how booze nearly derailed his career.

Then in the game, he threw four interceptions in the Giants' ugly 34-7 loss to the Ravens.

"It was very important from the sense of first, the truth shall set you free," Collins recalled. "And I kind of laid it all out there the Monday beforehand. That, for me, was a big step in my maturation process. The other thing was the game. I threw four interceptions and had a terrible game. I think what I learned from that was the sun's still going to come up the next day. Even though it was terrible and it was a bad game and I hated the fact it was in the Super Bowl, Kerry Collins the person was going to be OK and was going to survive anything like that. That really gave me a lot of confidence in my personal life."

Some of Collins' Carolina teammates accused him of being racist after remarks the quarterback claims were meant as a joke — he was drunk at the time — and an attempt to bond with black teammates.

"That's the thing to my dying day, I would deny the fact that I'm a racist. I think that was one of the events leading up to my decision to take a look at my alcohol use," he said. "The thing about it is, I realized what I did need to do and I did it. I'm here, and proud of where I'm at."

Boise St. gaining national respect

Once known only for blue field, Broncos take aim at BCS game

BY DOUG ALDEN

The Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho — Boise State football players love the novelty of their blue turf and the attention it brings.

What the Broncos have been accomplishing on the "Smurf Turf" is getting even more notice these days. No. 23 Boise State has the nation's longest winning streak at 15 in a row and hopes to break into the Bowl Championship Series despite playing in a mid-major conference.

"I think the national scene is really just starting to realize this isn't a fluke team. It's a program here," quarterback Jared Zabransky said.

In just its ninth season in Division I-A, Boise State is a relative newcomer to college football's top level. But the former I-AA power is putting up records that would earn other schools national titles.

Boise State (4-0) has won 28 of its last 29 games and is the two-time defending champion of the Western Athletic Conference. But because the WAC is not among the six leagues guaranteed a spot in one of the four BCS games, the Broncos are the long shot to become the first school from a non-BCS league to get an at-large bid.

It would take going undefeated and probably a little help, two things coach Dan Hawkins doesn't want his players thinking about just one month into the season.

"It is hard. You keep hammering on it and talking about it," said Hawkins, in his fourth season since taking over from Dirk Koetter left for Arizona State. "I think they'll play off a lot of how you approach it and your staff approaches it. And we're very much day-to-day around here."

Nobody is complaining about all this exposure.

The Broncos have gained attention by playing whenever they can get on TV Thursday, Friday or Saturday, day or night. Broncos home games are big events in Idaho's capital and the school wants people to see it.

The 30,000 seats at Bronco Stadium, less than a third of the capacity of stadiums at Michigan, Tennessee, LSU and Ohio State, are always packed with orange-clad fans.

The parking lot outside Bronco Stadium fills with tailgaters hours before kickoff, just like at any other college football game — just less of them.

"It's been a great atmosphere," said Hawkins, who is 37-6 with the Broncos. "You can do whatever you want, but you better win games. That's the best marketing



Boise State's Chris Carr runs the ball for 37 yards against BYU on Sept. 24. The No. 23 Broncos have the nation's longest winning streak at 15 in a row, but the team is most recognized for its blue field.

you can do."

Boise State edged Brigham Young 28-27 last week, winning when a field goal attempt by BYU went wide with 19 seconds remaining.

Although the Broncos dropped two spots in this week's poll, they're still unbeaten as a showdown with WAC rival Fresno State approaches.

The Broncos host SMU (1-3) on Saturday and visit Tulsa (1-2) before a home game against the 17th-ranked Bulldogs — another potential BCS bust.

Barring an upset, the winner of the Oct. 23 game will have an excellent opportunity to go unbeaten the rest of the way.

"We don't really focus on that. You can't really control what other people say," Hawkins said. The Broncos made a major impact nationally three years ago when they upset Fresno State, ending the Bulldogs' bid to go unbeaten after a 6-0 start and shake up the BCS.

Boise State finished that season 8-4, then went a step further by getting ranked in the AP poll for the first time in November 2002. The Broncos went 12-1, culminating their best 1-A season with a win over Iowa State in the home-town Humanitarian Bowl.

The Broncos topped that with a 13-1 record last year, bypassing the Humanitarian Bowl for a shot at a bigger opponent and beating TCU 34-31 in the Fort Worth Bowl.

This season wasn't expected to be quite as successful after losing seven offensive starters, including quarterback Ryan Dinwiddie — the most efficient passer in NCAA history — yet Boise State hasn't slowed a bit. The Broncos are sixth nationally in total offense and No. 3 in scoring with a 48.3-point average, even after last week's relatively paltry four touchdowns.

"We may not get the athletes that an LSU or a Miami may have, but we play with a lot of tenacity and a lot of heart," said Zabransky, who has thrown for 1,537 yards and seven touchdowns.

While the Broncos are gaining a reputation for something other than playing on a field that matches their home jerseys, the blue turf is always a hot topic.

"That's always what people say when you mention Boise State — 'Oh, you've got the blue field,'" Zabransky said. "It's kind of second nature to us. We don't seem to notice it, but everybody else does."

Marshall avoids 0-4 start

BY JOHN RABY

The Associated Press

HUNTINGTON, W.Va. — Stan Hill and Jonathan Goddard wouldn't let Marshall slip to its worst start in 55 years.

Hill, playing with elbow tendinitis and a strained thumb on his throwing hand, threw three touchdown passes and Marshall held off a late rally to beat Miami, Ohio 33-25 Wednesday night.

Marshall (1-3, 1-0 Mid-American Conference) avoided its first 0-4 start since 1969 with the help of its defense. The Thundering Herd sacked QB Bates six times and converted three turnovers into points.

Goddard had four sacks, recovered a fumble and forced another. "He changed their whole game," because they couldn't block him," Marshall coach Bob Pruett said. "Jonathan was whipping their right tackle pretty good."

Miami (2-3, 1-1) lost to Marshall for the sixth time in seven meetings, the exception a 45-6 home win last year.

Hill sat out that game, missing the second half of the season with a knee injury. On Wednesday, he beat Miami for the second time in Huntington.

Hill had first-quarter scoring passes of 27 yards to Brad Bates and 16 yards to Josh Davis. He also had a 6-yarder to Bates midway through the third quarter to put Marshall ahead 26-14.

Hill, who finished 23-for-37 for 184 yards, said having a week off after a 13-3 loss at No. 3 Georgia helped his body recover.

"My arm felt a lot better," Hill said. "My body was able to heal." Bates, the league's top passer, continued an up-and-down season. He was 14-for-23 for 144 yards and was intercepted twice and fumbled three times.

"How can you expect to win a game like that?" Betts said. "I take responsibility for four of those. I need to step up and do something."

During the recount of the 2000 Election in Florida, a lawyer wrote a memorandum explaining how to use legal technicalities to disqualify the Absentee Ballot Votes of Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Guardsmen serving overseas.

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Trial set for Colorado lawsuit

The Associated Press

DENVER — A judge set a trial date Wednesday for a lawsuit against the University of Colorado that touched off a scandal in the football program over allegations that sex, drugs and alcohol were used to lure recruits.

A judge set a May 31 date for the federal suit filed by former student Lisa Simpson, who said she was raped by players or recruits at an off-campus party in 2001.

The lawsuit has been consolidated with one filed by another woman with similar claims. Both women accuse the school of fostering an environment in which women suffer sexual harassment in violation of federal laws requiring equal access to education.

A total of three women have filed lawsuits alleging they were

raped by football players or recruits who attended the party.

No criminal sexual assault charges were ever filed.

The football recruiting scandal erupted in January when a deposition of Boulder County prosecutor Mary Keenan was made public.

Keenan said prosecutors met with university officials in 1998 to discuss an alleged rape the year before and advised them to end partying by recruits and their student-hosts. She also said she believed the football program used sex and booze to entice recruits.

A grand jury and a panel found that sex, drugs and alcohol were used to lure players, but without the school's knowledge. A football recruiting aide has been indicted for soliciting prostitution and embezzlement for using a cell phone to call a dating chat line.

Woods' round is a real pain in the back

Opening 68 leaves him two behind Hamilton in \$7 million American Express Championship

BY DOUG FERGUSON
The Associated Press

THOMASTOWN, Ireland — Tiger Woods looked as if he should have withdrawn with a bad back. He played as if he was capable of winning the American Express Championship for a third straight time.

Winning on every shot and sometimes letting out a yelp at impact, Woods shot 4-under 68 at Mount Juliet on Thursday that left him in a large group two shots behind British Open champ Todd Hamilton.

"I was hoping it might loosen up a little bit, but it didn't," Woods said. "I was hoping the spasms would go away, but that didn't happen, either. I just had to get through it somehow and post a number."

Woods hurt his back last week when he fell asleep in an awkward position on his private plane, and said on the eve of the tournament he might have to withdraw.

It looked like he wasn't kidding.

He took two painkillers upon his arrival at Mount Juliet. After his tee shot on No. 4, he raised his shirt and had his caddy apply heating cream on his back. Woods did a curtsy to stick a tee in the ground and pluck his ball from the cup. And he walked the fairways with his back tilted to the side, trying to relieve the pressure.

Hamilton birdied four straight holes toward the end of his round to get to 7-under, but made his only bogey on the 18th hole for a 6-under 66.

He had a one-shot lead over a trio of Ryder Cup players from Europe — Sergio Garcia, Luke Donald and Miguel Angel Jimenez — along with Stuart Appleby, Adam Scott and Steve Flesch.

Woods was in a big group with U.S. Open champion Retief Goosen, Lee Westwood, Justin Leonard and Thomas Bjorn.

Even though he owns the oldest trophy in golf, it might take his third victory this year for Hamilton to get his due. Not many knew him when he beat Ernie Els in a playoff to



Tiger Woods, who nearly withdrew, hurt his back last week when he fell asleep in an awkward position on his private plane.

win the British Open, and Hamilton was left off the Ryder Cup team despite a victory earlier this year in the Honda Classic.

He looked sharp toward the end, holing birdie putts of 30 and 20 feet, hitting it to 10 feet on No. 16 and then two-putting for birdie on the 17th. He dropped his only shot on the closing hole, going from rough to rough, and having to get up-and-down from the side of the green for bogey.

Garcia had a share of the lead for most of the day, but also dropped a shot on the 18th from a greenside bunker.

The air was cool and heavy, and with overnight rain it made the course play a little longer. But the greens at Mount Juliet are among the best in golf, which helped with scoring. There were 25 players within three shots of the lead, and 52 players in the 68-man field shot par or better.

Top-ranked Vijay Singh and five others from the top 50 in the world ranking are not playing this evening.

Singh withdrew to stay with his family at his beachfront home in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla., that was damaged by Hurricane Jeanne. Ditto for Nick Price, who lives farther south in Florida.

Masters champion Phil Mickelson withdrew for personal reasons. Mike Weir said he was sick. John Daly cited a foot injury. And Kenny Perry said he wanted to spend time with his family.

Roddick, Federer win in Bangkok

The Associated Press

BANGKOK, Thailand — Andy Roddick needed seven match points before finally putting away Jeff Morrison 6-2, 6-7 (4), 6-4 Thursday to reach the quarterfinals of the Thailand Open.

Sports briefs

Roddick, seeded second, closed it with a forehand winner. "I missed easy shots and missed easy points," the 2003 U.S. Open champion said.

His next opponent is 2002 Australian Open champ Thomas Johansson, who beat Chile's Adrian Panatta 6-3, 6-3.

"He's a former top-10 player and he's won a Grand Slam," Roddick said. "It will be tough, but I'm hitting the balls well now."

Top-ranked Roger Federer also moved into the quarterfinals, defeating Iv Humberger 6-1, 6-3. Federer finished the first set in 20 minutes, but he struggled a little in the second and needed four match points to end it.

Also on Thursday, defending champion Taylor Dent was eliminated 6-0, 6-4 by Dennis Van Schempening in 42 minutes, while Marat Safin, Paradorn Srichaphan, Robin Soderling and Flavio Saretta won.

Clijsters wins first match in five months

HASSELT, Belgium — Former top-ranked player Kim Clijsters made a winning return to the tour, shaking off five months of rustiness to beat Tsveta Pesnosva 7-6 (3), 6-2 and moving into the quarterfinals of the Gaz de France Stars tournament.

Sidelined by a wrist injury since May, Clijsters struggled in the first set against the 37th-ranked Be-



World No. 1 Roger Federer, above, defeated Iv Humberger 6-1, 6-3 Thursday in the Thailand Open.

nesova. Backed by a boisterous home crowd, the second-seeded Clijsters won the second set easily.

Pound suggests Hamilton got away with doping

TORONTO — Tyler Hamilton's title from the Athens Games is "no longer a gold medal in the eyes of the world" because of the cyclist's failed drug test, the head of the World Anti-Doping Agency said Thursday.

WADA chief Dick Pound suggested Hamilton got away with cheating in Athens, where a preliminary test indicated he had received an endurance-boosting blood transfusion. The IOC dropped its probe because Hamilton's backup specimen mistakenly was frozen and there weren't enough red blood cells left to analyze.

That meant Hamilton was able to keep the medal. Hamilton still faces a possible two-year ban over a separate positive blood test in the Spanish Vuelta two weeks after the Olympics.

Judge allows release of evidence in Bryant sexual assault case

BY JON SARCHÉ
The Associated Press

DENVER — A judge cleared the way Wednesday for the release of documents and other evidence in the Kobe Bryant sexual assault case as early as next week.

Workers in the Eagle County Sheriff's Department were poring over some of the records, removing the name of the accuser and information that would be illegal to make public, such as mental health records.

Eagle County prosecutors also have some of the material.

Prosecution spokeswoman Krista Flannigan said officials would "make every effort" to have the files available Monday.

Prosecutors dropped the felony sexual assault charge against Bryant on Sept. 1 at the request of the alleged victim. Several news organizations, including The Associated Press, then requested access to the sealed files, including evidence and witness statements.

District Judge Richard Hart

temporarily blocked release of the records at the request of Bryant's attorney, Pamela Mackey, who wanted time to argue that they should be permanently sealed.

She said the records contained embarrassing information and that there was no legitimate need to release them.

The temporary seal expired Tuesday and Mackey withdrew the request for a permanent seal. She said as long as prosecutors released all documents — not just those harmful to Bryant — the public would be able to fully evaluate the decisions of prosecutors and investigators.

District Attorney Mark Hurlbert responded by saying he intends to withhold some information that could be embarrassing for Bryant, such as evidence about his high school life.

Prosecutors and attorneys for the 20-year-old alleged victim had argued for releasing most of the details, saying the public's right to review the information outweighs Bryant's right to privacy.

Shaquille O'Neal says Kobe's comment about 'hush money' is 'ridiculous'

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Separating Kobe Bryant and Shaquille O'Neal on opposite coasts has done nothing to lessen the animosity between the former Los Angeles Lakers teammates. If anything, the feud is escalating. On Wednesday, O'Neal dismissed as "ridiculous" Bryant's allegations that O'Neal had paid up to \$1 million in hush money to various women and then took his own shot by saying, "I'm not the one buying love."

O'Neal made the remark on the network to a staffer at ESPN, the network

NBA briefs

said, after the Los Angeles Times quoted a police report as saying Bryant told detectives in Eagle, Colo., "he should have done what Shaq does ... anything" and already had paid up to \$1 million "for situations like this."

The statement came near the end of a lengthy interrogation about a hotel employee's complaint that Bryant had raped her.

The Times said it was unclear precisely what Bryant meant by his remarks.

"This whole situation is ridiculous," O'Neal told ESPN. "I never hung out with Kobe, I never hung around him. In the seven or eight years we were together, we were never together. So how this guy can think he knows anything about me or my business is funny."

Celtics expect Payton to be in camp

WALTHAM, Mass. — Gary Payton's off-season was marked by a trade, a missed deadline for taking a physical and an arrest for investigation of driving under the influence. Now the people who run his new

team, the Boston Celtics, are eager to see the point guard on a basketball court.

They expect to get that chance Monday when players report for training camp, even though they have had little contact with Payton, and his agent raised doubts he will appear.

"I think he will," report Celtics executive director of basketball operations Danny Ainge said Wednesday.

Payton's agent, Aaron Goodwin, said the expectation that Payton would show up Monday is "incorrect," according to Goodwin's spokeswoman, Alexandria Boone.

RACING STRIPES

A WEEKLY LOOK AT MOTORSPORTS

Evernham up to speed as car owner

Ex-crew chief a quick study in business side of NASCAR

By DICK BRINSTER
The Associated Press

Ray Evernham was a pioneer among NASCAR's numbers-crunching crew chiefs. These days, the data he most often examines as a car owner has nothing to do with horsepower and downforce.

What he cares about is getting his car on television.

"Our Joyce Julius numbers are tripled what they were last year," said Evernham, referring to a firm that calculates exposures for corporate sponsors. "We've got more TV coverage. It's been a really good year for us so far."

The camera focuses on Jeremy Mayfield or Casey Kahne, the sponsorship of Dodge is easily visible on the side of the cars.

And that's a winning ticket for Evernham, an ex-driver who nurtured Jeff Gordon from novice to greatness.

The former short-track racer seems very much at home in his new environment of dealing with sponsors, the lifeblood of auto racing.

"I think they're [sponsors] happy we made it," Evernham said. Mayfield qualified in the elite field of 10 drivers seeking the Nextel Cup championship. The third race in the 10-race countdown is Sunday at Talladega Superspeedway.

ga Superspeedway.

"We had two cars that had a legitimate shot at making it," he added.

That's important. To keep lucrative backing upward of \$20 million for a top team, success must come on the track. It has this year at Evernham Motorsports, but the owner's attention is strictly business. No more crunching Cup standings numbers.

"I've been looking more at my budget numbers, not the computer," he said. "That's my job now."

It's been made easier by the work of Mayfield's crew chiefs, Kenny Francis and Tommy Baldwin Jr., who calls the shots for impressive rookie Kahne.

Still, the big picture is building a team and recognizing talent. Mayfield says it's also about

inspirational leadership, something he learned last year when Evernham stuck with him through some difficult times on the track.

"We got knocked down and we got chewed up and spit out, boomed off the stage," Mayfield said. "But we came right back."

He made the 10-top chase by winning three weeks ago in Richmond, Va. Kahne narrowly missed, but has five second-place finishes and 10 top-fives—a figure matching that of seven-time champion Dale Earnhardt and exceeded only twice by rookies in Cup history.



NASCAR team owner Ray Evernham, second from right, talks with his crew before the start of the MBNA America 400 at the Dover International Speedway in Dover, Del., on Sunday. Evernham, who now owns three Cup titles as Jeff Gordon's crew chief, now owns a two-car team that features Jeremy Mayfield and Casey Kahne.

Evernham takes little credit. "I just tell them, 'Great job,'" he said.

That's what Dodge thought Evernham was doing when the automaker chose him as point man for its return in 2001 after a 16-year absence from NASCAR's top division. Evernham guided Gordon to the first of his four titles and the first 47 of his 69 career victories, then left powerhouse Hendrick Motorsports to start his own operation.

With Mayfield among the title chasers and Kahne the top rookie on the circuit, Evernham is satisfied with the progress of his cars.

"It's not like we are a 20-year team," he said. "We're a four-year team with one guy that's a rookie who had never seen some of these places in a Cup car."

But Evernham believes the growth of his operation into one of the best in NASCAR is not a certainty simply because of one good year. He looks to the future, with expansion on his mind.

"We're definitely going to have one full-time Busch car and were probably going to have a part-time Busch car," he said. "If we're going to get to where we need to be, we've got to be work-

ing on driver development."

He'll try to please the examples of crew owners Jack Roush and Rick Hendrick, whose huge operations extend to the lower levels of NASCAR.

"Roush has probably done the best job at it, and Rick has done a good job," Evernham said. "We need to get right in there."

He wants a solid program in place to develop future Cup drivers and sees no shortage of candidates.

"There are a lot of hungry drivers out there, and we're getting calls from all over the country," Evernham said.

NASCAR NEXTEL CUP

Race 29: EA Sports 500, 8 p.m. Sunday CET, AFN-Sports.

Last race: Ryan Newman easily won the MBNA America 400 at Dover International Speedway, while four-time series champion Jeff Gordon took the points lead with his third-place finish.

DRIVERS TO WATCH

Dale Earnhardt Jr. To see his hopes like a Cup champion when he wins the race for the 10th time, and a driver who needs a strong of could put him in excellent position to win the race for the 10th time.

Mark Kenseth To see his hopes like a Cup champion when he wins the race for the 10th time, and a driver who needs a strong of could put him in excellent position to win the race for the 10th time.

Jamie McMurray To see his hopes like a Cup champion when he wins the race for the 10th time, and a driver who needs a strong of could put him in excellent position to win the race for the 10th time.

Last year: Michael Waltrip broke Dale Earnhardt Jr.'s streak at Talladega Superspeedway, sweeping high off the final turn and denying his teammate a fifth straight victory at the track by winning the EA Sports 500.

Nextel Cup qualifying record: Bill Elliott, 212.289 mph, 1987.
Nextel Cup race record: Mark Martin, 188.354 mph, May 10, 1997.

POINTS RACE

After 28 of 36 races

1. Jeff Gordon 5,371
2. Kurt Busch 5,370
3. Dale Earnhardt Jr. 5,353
4. Jimmie Johnson 5,314
4. Mark Martin 5,314
6. Elliott Sadler 5,275
7. Matt Kenseth 5,272
8. Ryan Newman 5,264
9. Tony Stewart 5,236
10. Jeremy Mayfield 5,214
11. Jamie McMurray 5,213
12. Kevin Harvick 5,214
13. Casey Kahne 3,367
14. Kasey Kirby 3,360
15. Dale Jarrett 3,342
16. Michael Waltrip 3,056
17. Rusty Wallace 3,020
18. Sterling Marlin 2,997
19. Greg Biffle 2,998
20. Casey Means 2,934

FAST FACTS

Jeff Gordon won the Aaron's 499 at Talladega Superspeedway on April 24, 2003, Gordon's 10th point-to-point win. Gordon is the only driver to have won the race after finishing last in the first 10 laps. Gordon has four top-10 finishes in the last five visits to Talladega. Dale Jarrett is the last to finish in the top five in the last 28 races after a fourth-place showing at Dover. The current Nextel Cup records for qualifying and race speeds were set at Talladega.

BUSCH SERIES

Last race: Points leader Martin Truex Jr. took the lead with 12 laps to go and drove to an easy victory in the Stacker 200 at Dover International Speedway. It was Truex's fifth win of the year, tying him with rookie Kyle Busch and Greg Biffle for the most on the circuit.

Next race: Mr. Goodcents 300, Oct. 9, Kansas City, Mo.

INDY RACING

This week: Toyota Indy 400 at Fontana, Calif. (Track-delayed, 6:30 p.m. Monday, AFN-Sports).
Last race: Adrian Fernandez won his second race in a month by taking the Delphi Indy 300 in Joliet, Ill., on Sept. 12. Indy 300 winner Buddy Rice was involved in a frightening crash, but was unharmed. Despite leading upside down along the track.
Last year: Sam Hornish Jr. won the fastest open-wheel race in history, averaging 140.4 mph in the Toyota Indy 400. Hornish also took the inaugural Indy 200.
Next race: Chevy 500, Oct. 17, Fort Worth, Texas.

Last race: Shane Hmiel nipped veteran Todd Bodine heading into the final lap to win the Las Vegas 500. It was Hmiel's first career truck victory.
Next race: Ted Musgrave overtook Brendan Gaughan with nine laps remaining and won the American Racing Wheels 200 for his third straight victory at California Speedway. Musgrave started at the back of the field with an engine change, but still set a track record for fastest winning speed at 145.926 mph.

Next race: Silverado 350K, Oct. 16, Fort Worth, Texas.

CHAMP CARS

Last race: Sebastian Bourdais held off Newman-Haas teammate Bruno Junquiera in a side-by-side battle to win the Las Vegas 400 for his sixth victory of 2004. Bourdais won by 0.066 seconds, the sixth-closest finish since 1975.
Next race: Oct. 24, Surfer's Paradise, Australia.
Formula One: **Last race:** Rubens Barrichello won his second straight race at the inaugural Chinese Grand Prix, series champion Michael Schumacher finished 12th, his worst showing in a race since 1999.
Next race: Japanese Grand Prix, Oct. 10, Suzuka.

SPORTS



Indians pitcher Denney shot in leg
when bullet pierces team bus
in Kansas City, Page 27

On deck: Plenty of work

Luring Expos
to Washington
only first step
to Opening Day

BY JOSEPH WHITE
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The celebration can't last long in the nation's capital. The real work is just beginning now that the Montreal Expos are on the way.

The city government must race against time to approve funding for a new stadium. RFK Stadium must be renovated in time for Opening Day in April. A team nickname needs to be chosen.

Major League Baseball has some unfinished business, too. The other team owners must approve the move when they meet in November.

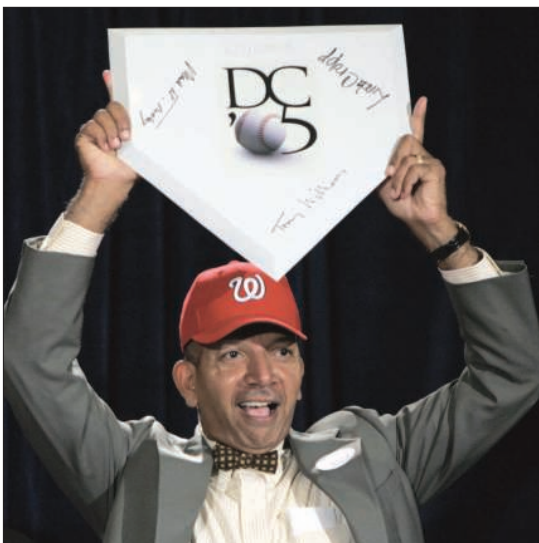
A buyer has to be found for the relocated team. A deal must be completed that appeases Baltimore Orioles owner Peter Angelos.

"We finally have taken the first step," commissioner Bud Selig said Wednesday, shortly after announcing the Expos' move to Washington. "And I want to say, obviously, there's a lot of work to be done."

For a day, at least, there was unbridled jubilation among officials who had worked diligently to end the city's 33-year drought of Major League Baseball. Mayor Anthony Williams drew cheers as he donned a Washington Senators cap at a news conference at the City Museum.

"After 30 years of waiting and waiting," Williams said, "and lots of hard work and more than a few prayers, there will be baseball in Washington in 2005!"

The team will play at RFK for three seasons while a new ballpark is built along the Anacostia River, south of the Capital. It's a \$440 million package that requires approval by the city council.



Top, Washington Mayor Anthony Williams celebrates Wednesday after he announced that the Montreal Expos will be moved to Washington for the 2005 baseball season. Right, Montreal Expos first baseman Brad Wilkerson signs autographs before the team's final home game against the Florida Marlins in Montreal on Wednesday. The Expos, Canada's first major league team, ended their 35 years in Montreal with a 9-1 loss to the Marlins.

AP photos



Orioles lament
team's move
to D.C., only
40 miles away

BY DAVID GINSBURG
The Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Standing in front of his barbecue pit beyond the right-field wall at Camden Yards, big Boog Powell worried about the Montreal Expos' move to Washington.

"It's going to hurt us and our attendance, and it will hurt me here," the former Orioles star said Wednesday before Baltimore played Toronto. "I'm against it."

Orioles owner Peter Angelos fought bitterly to block the move, insisting that his team could not remain competitive with another major league team only 40 miles away. Angelos contended that a team in Washington would cause attendance to drop at his ballpark and create a financial shortfall.

"Our negotiations with Major League Baseball are continuing," Angelos said in statement issued Wednesday night. "We have made substantial progress but have not yet reached an agreement. Our aim has been to protect and preserve the Orioles franchise and the economic benefits it has generated for Baltimore for the past 50 years. Equally important have been our efforts to protect Maryland's investment in Camden Yards."

Under the deal baseball is negotiating with Angelos, an appraiser would value the Orioles franchise, and the commissioner's office would guarantee its value for a period of time, a baseball official said Wednesday night on the condition of anonymity.

The commissioner's office also would guarantee Baltimore's locally generated revenue for a period of time and assist in the creation of a regional sports network, the official said.

SEE ORIOLES ON PAGE 26

SEE DECK ON PAGE 26

Racing Stripes:
Evernam makes
smooth shift
from crew chief
to car owner

Page 31



Tears shed
by fans, players
as Expos lose
final game
in Montreal

Page 26



Despite back
troubles, Woods
gets off to good
start in AmEx
Championship

Page 30

Packers in turmoil after dropping two of first three games Page 28